



Ariel Castro appears in Cleveland Municipal court Thursday, May 9, 2013, in Cleveland.
(AP Photo/David Duprey)

PURE EVIL

T. J. SHEERAN
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The three women held in captivity inside a U.S. home for about a decade were starved and raped, and one woman had five pregnancies aborted when the suspect punched her in the stomach, a police report says. A prosecutor said he may seek the death penalty for the forced miscarriages.

The report obtained by The Associated Press paints a grim picture of the women's ordeal before their dramatic escape Monday when one of them, Amanda Berry, kicked out a door.

Berry told police that she delivered a baby in a child's plastic pool, so it would be easier to clean up, while in captivity. Michelle Knight told them she suffered at least five miscarriages at the hands of suspect Ariel Castro and said she delivered Berry's baby under threat of death if the baby died.

Continued on Page 5



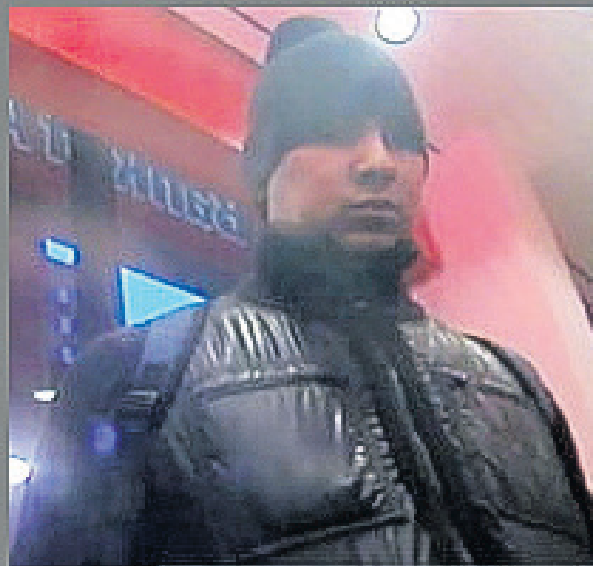
President Barack Obama, right, throws his fists up as a robotic vehicle, controlled by students Hannah Hutton, left, and Patrick Sandoval, center, moves towards him during a visits to Manor New Technology High School, Thursday, May 9, 2013 in Manor, Texas.
(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Obama presses middle-class jobs agenda

US ATMs Breached

This surveillance image shows a man identified as "defendant Reyes" allegedly using fraudulent magnetic cards to steal money from one of several cash machines in Manhattan. Federal prosecutors on Thursday, May 9, 2013, said that a gang of cyber-criminals stole \$45 million in a matter of hours by hacking their way into a database of prepaid debit cards and then draining cash machines around the globe.

(AP Photo)
Page 4



5:28PM- @ 1886 BROADWAY
3 WITHDRAWALS- \$2,409

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Offering a more upbeat view of the economy, President Barack Obama resurrected his jobs proposals Thursday, advancing modest initiatives as he pushed for action on more ambitious efforts that face resistance from congressional Republicans. "We're poised for progress," he declared. The president chose the bustling Texas capital as a backdrop to refocus on higher wages, education and a manufacturing-driven agenda that had been eclipsed by his struggles over gun control and spending cuts and his push for an overhaul of immigration laws.

Continued on Page 3

Prince Harry opens weeklong US visit

HENRY C. JACKSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A buttoned-down Prince Harry joined Michelle Obama in honoring military families Thursday and toured an exhibition in Congress about land-mines, opening a weeklong U.S. visit devoted to the wounded victims of war. Shrieking onlookers gave him the pop-star treatment, but he was all royal business.

The British soldier-prince had one of America's most storied wounded warriors, the wisecracking Sen. John McCain, at his side as he viewed a display of land-mine photos, maps and mine-detection equipment, staged by a charity held dear by his late mother, Princess Diana.

As the prince entered the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building near the Capitol, he was greeted by a roar and shouts of "Harry!" from a crowd of about 500 people, nearly all of them women. They crowded a roped-off hallway and stairway with a view of the exhibit, hoisting their cellphones and tablets to get a picture. Harry didn't visibly react except to give a polite wave.

McCain, with a laugh, said he told Harry "I've never seen, in all the years I've been here, such an unbal-

anced gender crowd."

From there it was on to the White House for a previously unannounced visit with the first lady, Vice President Joe Biden's wife, Jill, and military mothers

world away from the Afghanistan war zone where he recently served for 20 weeks as a co-pilot gunner in an Apache attack helicopter.

It was just as far removed

was probably a much better pilot than I was."

As for the prince's reputation for cutting loose on occasion, McCain joked that the British diplomatic reception and dinner later



First lady Michelle Obama gestures during a surprise visit from Prince Harry at an event in honor of military mothers in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

and children at an afternoon tea. Harry joined with the children in helping the kids make Mother's Day gifts from tulip and rose bouquets, vegetable chips and edible dough jewelry gathered in the State Dining Room.

For the prince, the Washington settings were a

from his hijinks in a Las Vegas hotel room last summer, when fuzzy photos got out of a naked Harry playing strip billiards.

McCain, a Republican former presidential candidate, who was shot down over North Vietnam and tortured as a captive, said he told the prince that "he

in the evening was sure to be a "wild and raucous affair."

On Friday, the prince visits Arlington National Cemetery and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center before flying to Colorado for the 2013 Warrior Games in Colorado Springs. □

Tunisian man denies NY terror cell plot claims

JAKE PEARSON
L. NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Tunisian man linked to a plot to derail a train bound for Canada was charged with trying to stay in the United States illegally to build a cell for international acts of terror such as poisoning a water system with bacteria, authorities said Thursday.

Law enforcement authorities had watched Ahmed Abassi since he arrived in the United States from Canada in mid-March and arrested him on April 22 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, authorities said. Abassi met regularly with an undercover FBI agent and met with another Tunisian citizen who later was arrested in Canada in the plot to derail the train, they said.

"As alleged, Ahmed Abassi had an evil purpose for seeking to remain in the United States — to commit acts of terror and develop a network of terrorists here and to use this country as a base to support the efforts of terrorists internationally," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a release issued after the federal indictment against Abassi was unsealed on Thursday.

The head of the New York FBI office, George Venizelos, said: "Mr. Abassi came to the United States to pursue terrorist activity and support others in the same shameful pursuit. What Mr. Abassi didn't know was that one of his associates, privy to the details of his plan, was an undercover FBI agent."

Prosecutors, in a letter submitted to a U.S. District Court judge in Manhattan, said Abassi had radicalized Chiheb Esseghaier, who is charged in Toronto with conspiring with al-Qaida members in Iran to derail a train that runs between New York City and Montreal. Esseghaier appeared briefly in court on April 24 and made a statement suggesting he did not recognize the court's jurisdiction. □

Northern Ireland planning to tear down 'peace lines'

S. POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Northern Ireland hopes to tear down the so-called "peace lines" of Belfast — dozens of walls of brick, steel and barbed wire that divide Irish Catholic and British Protestant neighborhoods — within a decade, officials said Thursday. But in setting a deadline of 2023, it's a sign of how difficult the task will be. The government unveiled the goal as part of wider plans to reduce divisions in what remains a profoundly polarized society 15 years after the Good Friday peace accord.

First Minister Peter Robinson, a Protestant, and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, a Catholic, said 10,000 people aged 16 to 24 who were out of school and unemployed would be offered one-year paid placements involving cross-community work designed to help them build friendships with peers from the other side. They said 100 summer camps would bring together younger children from across the divide. And Robinson and McGuinness said 10 new neighborhoods would be built that recruit balanced numbers of Protestant and

Catholic families, a rarity in a land where nine-tenths of residential areas are overwhelmingly one side or the other.

The headline-grabber was their aim to remove the dozens of security fences that scar the urban landscape of Belfast. The biggest of the barriers date to 1970 after the British territory's sectarian conflict roared to life with major Catholic-Protestant street battles.

The walls have kept growing in number and size during the past two decades of relative peace, and surveys suggest that people

living in front-line communities least want to see them disappear because of periodic rioting and a persistent threat of vandalism.

Robinson said no walls would come down until years of patient community work reassured residents on both sides that their homes would be safe from attack. Homes nearest the walls have windows covered with wire grills to prevent them from being shattered by thrown objects.

"Nobody has anything to fear. The bulldozers will not be arriving in the morning to take down any of the peace walls," he said. □

Salvatore Ferragamo

Mother's Day

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Continued from front

"You might not know this, because if you listen to all the doom and gloom in Washington and politics, and watching cable TV sometimes you might get kind of thinking nothing is going right," Obama told students at a technology high school. "The truth is there's a lot of reasons for us to feel optimistic about where we're headed as a country."

"Thanks to grit and determination of the American people, we cleared away the rubble of the worst economic crisis in our lifetime," he continued.

Still, Obama said that while housing markets are improving, corporate profits are skyrocketing and the energy and auto industries are thriving, there remains a need to boost the middle class.

The president's visit to Austin is the first in a series of field trips aimed at giving a high profile to the economy and jobs, issues still

clearly at the forefront of the public's concerns. In addition to his appearance at Manor New Technology High School, Obama also toured an Applied Materials Inc. plant. The company provides equipment, services and software to the semiconductor, flat panel display and solar power industries. "We want the next revolution in manufacturing to be made in America," he told plant workers.

By traveling to Texas to begin this renewed attention to his jobs initiatives Obama chose a state represented by two of the most conservative Republican members of the Senate — John Cornyn and tea party hero Ted Cruz. Texas also has the second-highest Hispanic population in the country, an attractive demographic group for Democrats and a key audience for Obama as he also pushes for an overhaul of immigra-



President Barack Obama, left, stops to meet local Austin residents at Stubb's Bar-B-Q restaurant, Thursday, May 9, 2013 in Austin, Texas. Sitting with Obama are from left to right, Caroline Sweet, Tyson Simmons, Joe Alonzo, and Agnes Wommack.
(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

tion laws.

The emphasis on jobs and on the needs of the middle class comes amid signs that the economy is continuing to recover, that the private sector is hiring, though not at an optimal rate, and that the stock market is maintaining a

record setting pace. But Obama is not necessarily benefitting from those trends, and hidden behind the positive numbers are stagnant wages, reduced working hours and low-wage hiring. What's more, with a 7.5 percent unemployment rate, nearly 12

million Americans are out of work.

An Associate Press-GfK poll last month showed that the percentage of the public that believes the country is headed in the wrong direction has been rising as has the percentage of people who disapprove of Obama's handling of the economy. "We've got to make sure that middle-class wages and incomes are also going up, because most families haven't seen their take-home pay rise for years now," he said.

Addressing persistent fiscal issues, including broad based budget cuts that the government is now confronting, he said: "Our deficits are falling at the fastest rate in years, but now we've got to budget in a smarter way so it doesn't hurt middle-class families or prevent us from making the critical investments that we need for your future." □

Obama presses middle-class jobs agenda

US: Hackers stole \$45 million in bank card breach

COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A world-wide gang of criminals stole \$45 million in hours by hacking into a database of prepaid debit cards and draining cash machines around the globe, prosecutors said Thursday — and outmoded U.S. card technology may be partly to blame.

Prosecutors said the case involved thousands of thefts from ATMs using bogus magnetic swipe cards carrying information from Middle Eastern banks. The fraudsters moved with astounding speed to loot financial institutions around the world, working in cells including one in New York, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch said.

She called it “a massive 21st-century bank heist.” Seven U.S. citizens from the Dominican Republic are under arrest.

One suspect was caught

on surveillance cameras, his backpack increasingly loaded down with cash, authorities said. Others took photos of themselves with giant wads of bills as

they made their way up and down Manhattan. Here’s how authorities say it worked:

Hackers got into bank databases, eliminated with-

drawal limits on pre-paid debit cards and created access codes. Others loaded that data onto any plastic card with a magnetic stripe — an old hotel key card or an expired credit card worked fine as long as they carried the account data and correct access codes.

A network of operatives then fanned out to rapidly withdraw money in multiple cities, authorities said. The cells would take a cut of the money, then launder it through expensive purchases or ship it wholesale to the global ringleaders. Lynch didn’t say where they were located.

The targets were reserves held by the banks to fund pre-paid credit cards, not individual account holders, Lynch said.

A security analyst said it was the biggest ATM fraud case she had heard of.

There were two separate attacks, one in Decem-

ber that reaped \$5 million worldwide and one in February that snared about \$40 million in 10 hours with about 36,000 transactions. The scheme involved attacks on two banks, Rakbank in the United Arab Emirates and the Bank of Muscat in Oman, prosecutors said.

The plundered ATMs were in 27 countries including Japan, Russia, Romania, Egypt, Colombia, Britain, Sri Lanka and Canada, and law enforcement agencies from more than a dozen nations were involved in the investigation, U.S. prosecutors said.

The accused ringleader in the U.S. cell, Alberto Yusi Lajud-Pena, was reportedly killed in the Dominican Republic last month, prosecutors said. More investigations continue and other arrests have been made in other countries, but prosecutors did not have details. An indictment unsealed Thursday accused Lajud-Pena and the other seven New York suspects of withdrawing \$2.8 million in cash from hacked accounts in less than a day.

Such ATM fraud schemes are not uncommon, but the \$45 million stolen in this one was at least double the amount involved in previously known cases, said Avivah Litan, an analyst who covers security issues for Gartner Inc.

Middle Eastern banks and payment processors are “a bit behind” on security and screening technologies that are supposed to prevent this kind of fraud, but it happens around the world, she said.

“It’s a really easy way to turn digits into cash,” Litan said.

Some of the fault lies with the ubiquitous magnetic strips on the back of the cards. The rest of the world has largely abandoned cards with magnetic strips in favor of ones with built-in chips that are nearly impossible to copy. But because U.S. banks and merchants have stuck to cards with magnetic strips, they are still accepted around the world. □

BANK OF MUSCAT CYBERATTACK - DEFENDANT REYES' ATM TRANSACTIONS
FEBRUARY 19, 2013 | 4:30PM TO 9:59PM



This undated graphic released by the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York City shows ten photos of a man identified as “defendant Reyes” who allegedly used fraudulent magnetic cards to steal money from cash machines, next to a map of Manhattan indicating the locations of the looted machines.

(AP Photo/U.S. Attorney's Office)

Police: Dead Boston bombing suspect buried

JAY LINDSAY
Associated Press

WORCESTER, Massachusetts (AP) — The body of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was entombed in an unknown gravesite Thursday after police said an anonymous person stepped forward to help arrange the secret burial.

The burial ended a week-long search for a place willing to take Tsarnaev's body out of Worcester, where his remains had been stored at a funeral home amid protests. In that time, the cities where Tsarnaev lived and died and his mother's country all refused the remains.

Amid the frustration,

Worcester's police chief urged an end to the quandary. “We are not barbarians,” he said. “We bury the dead.”

By Thursday, police announced: “As a result of our public appeal for help, a courageous and compassionate individual came forward to provide the assistance needed to prop-

erly bury the deceased.”

Police in Worcester, west of Boston, didn't say where the body was taken, only that it was no longer in the city. The director of Graham Putnam & Mahoney Funeral Parlors, Peter Stefan, also refused to say where the body was buried or to speak to media gathered outside the funeral home.

Tsarnaev's burial place is expected to become known with the release of his death certificate.

Tamerlan and his brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, are accused of setting off two shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs April 15 near the marathon finish line in an attack that killed three people and injured more than 260.

Days later, the brothers engaged in a firefight in which Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, was shot by police and then run over by his fleeing brother. A wounded Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, ditched the car and was later found hiding in a boat parked in a Waretown backyard. □

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Sinister details emerge in rescued missing women case

Continued from front

The girl, now 6 years old, was found Monday.

The 52-year-old Castro, who has been charged with rape and kidnapping, made his first court appearance Thursday. Castro was silent in court, looking at the ground, biting his collar and signing documents with his handcuffed hands. He was ordered held on \$8 million bond.

Investigators say the women — lured into Castro's car at the ages of 14, 16 and 20 — endured lonely, dark lives inside a dingy home and allowed outside only a handful of times in disguises while walking to a garage steps away. Police say the women were apparently bound by ropes and chains at times and were kept in different rooms.

Prosecutor Timothy McGinty said state law calls for the death penalty for the "most depraved criminals who commit aggravated murder during the course of a kidnapping." He said aggravated murder charges could be filed related to pregnancies terminated by force.

McGinty said Castro would be charged for every single act of sexual violence, assault and other crimes, suggesting the charges could number in the hundreds, if not thousands.

The women and Castro have given lengthy statements to police, Deputy Police Chief Ed Tomba said. None of the women gave any indication that Castro's two brothers, who had been in custody since Monday, were involved, Tomba said. The brothers appeared in court on unrelated charges and were released.

One thing that remains a mystery, Tomba said, is how the women were kept in the house so long.

The women, now in their 20s and 30s, vanished separately between 2002 and 2004. They never saw a chance to escape over the last 10 years until this week, when Berry broke through a door and ran to freedom.



A police car is parked across the street from the house where three women were held in Cleveland, Ohio, Thursday, May 9, 2013. Ariel Castro was charged with four counts of kidnapping and three counts of rape.

The police report gave a detailed account of the women's escape, beginning with Berry's discovery that a door was unlocked, leaving only a bolted outer door.

Berry feared it was a test: She said Castro occasionally left a door unlocked to test them. But she called to neighbors on a porch for help and was able to get out. Police then entered the house and found the other women, who threw themselves into the officers' arms.

In police audio tapes, women can be heard cry-

ing. An officer tells the dispatcher: "We found 'em. We found 'em."

Berry, 27, and Gina DeJesus, 22, were welcomed home Wednesday by jubilant crowds. Family members hustled them inside. Knight, 32, was reported in good condition at a local hospital.

The Associated Press does not usually identify people who may be victims of sexual assault, but the names of the women were widely circulated by their families, friends and law enforcement authorities for years during their disappear-

ance.

On Thursday, a musician who often practiced at Ariel Castro's house said he was there last week and heard noises, "like banging on the wall." Ricky Sanchez said he asked Castro

about it, and he blamed it on the dogs.

He also said Castro — a bass guitarist in merengue and salsa bands — liked to play his music loud inside. Sanchez said he also noticed there were four or five locks on the outside door.

"When I was about to leave, I tried to open the door.

I couldn't even, because there were so many locks in there," he said.

Castro's former daughter-in-law said he terrorized the mother of his children, beating her and locking her indoors. Grimilda Figueroa left Castro years ago and died last year.

"He was always described to me as a violent, just a scary violent person," Monica Stephens said. □

(AP Photo/David Duprey)



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Salad Station
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Cold fish platter
Smoked salmon, cocktail shrimp salad, peruvian seafood ceviche, tuna salad, black pepper tuna, slices-wakame salad, orange soy glaze.

Cold meat platter
Roasted marinated sirloin, beef tatak, perma ham with melon.

Soup Station
Creamy lobster soup.

Warm appetizers
Escargots and shrimps served in white wine garlic herb sauce, Tartlet fillet with chicken ragout with assorted mushrooms, Parmesan cheese shavings.

Omelet Station
Cheese, mushroom, bacon, onion, ham, bell pepper.

Hot Lamp
Jubilee glazed ham with roasted pineapple salsa-forest fruits sauce, beef tenderloin red port, thyme sauce-blue cheese crumbles.

Main Course
Snapper and grouper fillet, served in oil saffron sage oven roasted chicken thighs served in Pico papaya coconut rum sauce, assorted seafood with fresh spinach pasta and marinated sauce, honey spiced sweet mashed potatoes, Caribbean saffron rice.

Desserts
Cashew cake, mango coconut mousse, home made lemon vanilla cheesecake with white chocolate ganache, white chocolate grand marnier mousse, marinated strawberries, trifle, Aruban quesillo, chocolate brownie.

Kids Corner
Penne pasta with creamy tomato sauce, sliced ham and mozzarella cheese, chicken tenders, brisand, mini pizzas, French fries.

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Coalition on immigration bill clears critical 1st tests

DAVID ESPO
ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bipartisan coalition behind a contentious overhaul of immigration laws stuck together on a critical early series of test votes Thursday, turning back challenges from conservative critics as the Senate Judiciary Committee refined legislation to secure the nation's borders and offer eventual citizenship to millions living illegally in the United States. In a cavernous room packed with lobbyists and immigration activists, the panel rejected three attempts by opponents of the bill to impose tougher conditions on border security before unauthorized immigrants could apply for legal status. Republicans Lindsey Graham and Jeff Flake — part of a bipartisan group that helped draft the measure — joined all 10 Democrats in blocking each of the changes. Assuming the core political alignment remains intact, the committee is expected to approve the measure

within two weeks and clear the way for an epic showdown on the Senate floor in June where it faces an uncertain future and then in the Republican-led House. Some of the House Republicans, warily eyeing possible challenges in primary elections from conservative members of their own party, may feel they have to take a strong stand against the measure to keep their seats safe. The Republican leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, who has been cautious in his public comments on how to proceed on immigration, promised Thursday the House would act. "I just want to say this: the House is going to work its will on immigration reform," Boehner said at a news conference. "This is an issue that has been around for too long and needs to be dealt with. And I intend to see that it is dealt with." In the Senate, White House aides watched from the sidelines as the committee began its work on a bill that President Barack Obama



Immigration reform advocates pray during a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting in the Senate Hart Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

has made a top priority in the opening months of his second term in the White House. Painstakingly negotiated by a bipartisan "Gang of Eight," the measure would clear the way for tens of thousands of new high-tech and lesser-skilled workers to enter the country while also requiring all employers to check

the legal status of their employees. But it was the core trade-off — securing the border against future illegal immigration while setting up a 13-year process by which immigrants unlawfully in the country could qualify for citizenship — that generated the most controversy by far. Sen. Charles Schumer, a

Democrat who helped draft the bill, said it would "change our policy so that the people who are needed to help our economy grow can come into this country, and at the same time we will note that when families are divided the humane thing to do is bring those families back together." □



SPECIAL

First Course

CAJUN BEEF SALAD
tossed with olives, onions, paprika and chili sauce
SEAFOOD COCKTAIL
with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce
ESCARGOT A LA CREME
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms
GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE
dressed with your choice of dressing

Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
home made

Third Course

STEAK DIANE
with sauteed mushrooms tomatoes and herbs
PICCATA MILANAISE
served on a bed of pasta with parmesan
CHICKEN FLORENTINE
baked stuffed with creamed spinach
PLAIN OR STUFFED GROUPER
stuffed with seafood thermidor

Fourth Course

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE
PINEAPPLE SOUFFLE
ICE CREAM

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Racetrack owner guilty of money laundering

MICHAEL BRICK
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A brother of two top leaders for one of the most powerful drug cartels in Mexico was convicted Thursday of buying racehorses to hide illegal drug profits. A federal jury that deliberated for about nine hours over two days found Jose Trevino Morales, 46, guilty of conspiracy to commit money laundering. Trevino faces up to 20 years in prison. Prosecutors say his older brothers, Miguel Angel and Oscar Omar Trevino Morales, are the leaders of the Zetas, a Nuevo Leon-based organization that has expanded beyond the drug trade to become the biggest criminal group in Mexico. The verdict represents an important step in curbing the violence and corruption generated by the cartels, said U.S. Attorney Rob-

ert Pitman. "The government was able to show how the corrupting influence of drug cartels has extended into the United States, with cartel bosses using an otherwise legitimate domestic industry to launder proceeds from drug trafficking and other crimes," Pitman said. Jose Trevino Morales was one of five defendants in the three-week trial, each charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering. Three other defendants also were found guilty. A fifth was found not guilty. Several other defendants remain at large, including Trevino's brothers. His wife and daughter have pleaded guilty to lesser charges. Trevino watched silently Thursday as jurors delivered their verdict and were polled to confirm it. Several people in the gallery could be heard crying. His attorney, David Finn, did

not immediately comment afterward. Finn has previously accused the government of prosecuting Trevino and his family with the hope of extracting information about his brothers. "He's honest. He's ethical. He's frugal. He's not in the dope business," Finn said. But prosecutors accused Trevino of helping run a scheme that went through \$16 million in 30 months to buy, train and race horses. Prosecutor Douglas Gardner told jurors at the start of the proceedings that the operation created fake companies and in some instances fixed races. Horse owners, trainers and others crafted bank deposits to mask the drug money being used to fund the operation, Gardner said. "They hang themselves by their actions," Gardner said during closing arguments of Trevino and his co-defendants. □

U.S. Financial Front: US home building is surging, but where are the jobs?

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

More than six years after the U.S. housing bust stalled construction and led many companies to slash payrolls, the reverse is occurring: As demand for new homes has risen, builders can't hire as fast as they'd like.

They would be starting work on more homes — and contributing more to the economy — if they could fill more job openings.

The shortage of labor ranges across occupations — from construction superintendents and purchasing agents to painters, cabinet makers and drywall installers. The National Association of Home Builders says its members have complained of too few framers, roofers, plumbers and carpenters. The problem is most acute in areas where demand for new homes has recovered fastest, notably in Arizona, California, Texas, Colorado and Florida.

The problem results largely from an exodus of workers from the industry after the housing bubble burst. Some experienced construction workers found other jobs — in commercial building or in booming and sometimes higher-paying industries like mining and natural gas drilling and aren't eager to come back.

Hispanic immigrants, largely from Mexico, who had filled jobs during the boom were among those who left the industry and, in some cases, the United States.

"I can't find qualified people to fill the positions that I have open," says Vishaal Gupta, president of Park Square Homes in Orlando,

Florida. If not for the labor shortage, "I would be able to build more homes this year and meet more demand than I can handle

skilled construction workers have moved on to other fields.

In 2006, when the boom peaked, 3.4 million people



Richard Vap, owner of South Valley Drywall, poses for a photo at a home construction site with one of his crews working in the background in Lakewood, Colo. The resurgent U.S. housing market has sent builders calling again for Vap, but Vap says he is having trouble hiring enough qualified people.

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

today."

Gupta's company is facing a side effect of the labor shortage: Demand for higher pay from qualified workers. On some occasions, he says he's been outbid by rivals that need contractors for their own projects. Gupta's preferred paint contractor left for a rival that paid more. His new cabinet contractor is about 10 percent more expensive than the one Gupta used before.

The higher pay they're handing out helps explain why builders have been gradually raising prices on new homes. The median price was \$246,800 in February, up about 12 percent from the same month in 2011, the Commerce Department says.

A shortage of labor in a well-paying industry might seem incongruous in an economy stuck with a still-high 7.5 percent unemployment rate. But it reflects just how many former

worked in home building. By 2011, the figure had bottomed at about 2 million. As of last month, about 2.1 million people were employed in residential con-

struction.

Jobs in the industry did rise 4.1 percent in April from a year earlier, faster than overall U.S. job growth. But they'd have to surge 24 percent more to reach 2.6 million, their 2002 level — "the last time the market was normal," said David Crowe, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders.

For now, the industry is building faster than it's hiring. In February, builders began work on single-family homes at the fastest pace in five years. And in March, they broke the 1 million mark for the first time since June 2008. Permits for future construction are also near a five-year high.

In the 12 months that ended in March, housing starts surged 47 percent. Yet over the same period, the industry's employment grew just 3.7 percent.

Normally, a rebound in home construction helps

propel an economy after a recession. But even with the steady gains in housing starts, sales and prices since last year, the industry remains below levels considered healthy.

The National Association of Home Builders says nearly half its members who responded to a survey in March said a scarcity of labor has led to delays in completing work. Fifteen percent have had to turn down some projects.

The industry may have to look more aggressively for workers at vocational schools, federally funded programs like Job Corps and elsewhere, says David Crowe, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders.

"We'll have to recruit more," he says.

The home builders association is pushing Congress to let more immigrants enter the U.S. through a worker visa program. □

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Report:

Syria to supply 'game-changing' weapons to Hezbollah

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria will supply "game-changing" weapons to Hezbollah, the chief of the Lebanese militant group said Thursday, less than a week after Israeli airstrikes on Damascus targeted alleged shipments of advanced Iranian missiles bound for Hezbollah. Israel has signaled it will respond with airstrikes to any future weapons shipments, meaning it could quickly get drawn into Syria's civil war if the Hezbollah chief's declaration is more than an empty threat.

Tension has been rising in the region since Israel struck targets inside Syria on Friday and Sunday. Hezbollah and Israel fought several battles in the past three decades, including a 34-day war in 2006 that left some 1,200 Lebanese and 160 Israelis dead.

Israel has largely tried to stay out of Syria's 26-month-old conflict. It never acknowledged the airstrikes, but Israeli officials have

signaled Israel's air force would strike against any shipments of strategic missiles that might be bound for Hezbollah.

Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging threats over the past months.

Israeli officials say the Lebanese militant group has tens of thousands of rockets, though most of them are unguided. The shipments targeted last week included precision-guided missiles, the officials said.

Nasrallah has said in the past that his group has missiles that can strike anywhere in Israel, including as far south as the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah and Iran have become increasingly involved in Syria's civil war, supplying troops and military advisers to help Syrian President Bashar Assad fight armed rebels trying to oust him.

Nasrallah spoke Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of Hezbollah's radio station, Al-Nour, in a speech televised



Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah speaks via video during a conference, held in a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday May, 9, 2013. Nasrallah said Syria will supply 'game-changing' weapons to the Lebanese militant group.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

in Beirut. Nasrallah has rarely appeared in public since the 2006 war, for fear of being targeted by Israel.

Nasrallah said Hezbollah could expect strategic weapons from Syria in the future.

"Syria will give the resistance special weapons it never had before," Nasrallah said. "We mean game-changing."

Nasrallah said the weapons shipments were Syria's response to the Israeli airstrikes. "This is the Syrian strategic reaction," Nasrallah said. "This is more important than firing a rocket or carrying out an airstrike"

against Israel.

The military alliance between Syria and Hezbollah will continue, the Hezbollah chief said.

"We in the Lebanese resistance declare that we stand by the Syrian popular resistance and give our material and moral support, and cooperate and coordinate in order to liberate the Syrian Golan," he said.

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed the strategic plateau.

Asked to comment on Nasrallah's declaration, Israeli

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said: "We don't respond to words. We respond to action."

In a related development, Israeli security officials said Thursday they have asked Russia to cancel the imminent sale of an advanced air defense system to Syria. The officials said Israel shared information with the United States in hopes of persuading Russia to halt the planned deal to provide S-300 anti-aircraft missiles. The Israeli officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. □



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Abduction, attacks mar run-up to Pakistan election

**MUNIR AHMED
REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — An especially violent spate of killings, kidnappings and bombings marred the run-up to Pakistan's nationwide election, capped Thursday by the abduction of the son of a former prime minister as he was rallying supporters on the last day of campaigning before the historic vote.

Saturday's election marks the first time in Pakistan's military coup-riddled history that a civilian government has finished its term

and will hand over power to another. But the significance of the occasion has been overshadowed by the relentless violence targeting mostly liberal, secular parties.

More than 125 people have been killed by a series of bombings and shootings that can mostly be traced to Taliban militants who have vowed to disrupt a democratic process they view as un-Islamic. Separatists in the southwestern province of Baluchistan have also attacked candidates and their supporters across the political spec-

trum. There was no claim of responsibility for the abduction of 25-year-old Ali Haider Gilani, but suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban. Gilani is running for a provincial assembly seat under the banner of the Pakistan People's Party, one of three parties the Taliban has singled out for retribution because they supported military operations against Taliban insurgents in northwestern Pakistan.

His father, Yousuf Raza Gilani, is a longtime member of the PPP who served as prime minister while many of those military operations



People comfort Musa Gilani, right, the brother of Ali Haider Gilani who has been kidnapped in Multan, Pakistan, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

(AP Photo/Zeeshan Hussain)

Cairo, Egypt:

American stabbed outside US Embassy

**MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press**

CAIRO (AP) — An assailant stabbed an American man on Thursday while they were standing outside the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, security officials said.

The area around the U.S. Embassy has been the site of anti-American incidents and violence in the past, but stabbing attacks are uncommon despite political unrest that has roiled Egypt since the 2011 uprising.

Embassy spokesman David Ranz confirmed that a U.S. citizen was stabbed near the embassy, and said he was immediately rushed to the hospital. His condition was not known.

There were differing accounts of the attack.

An Egyptian official said the assailant, who was wielding a knife, attacked the American as he stood outside the embassy building, situated in the central Cairo neighborhood of Garden City.

The state-run daily Al Ahram

said the victim, Christopher Stone, told prosecutors at a hospital that the attacker asked him his nationality and when learned he was American, pulled the knife and stabbed him.

Egypt's official news agency MENA reported that security authorities believe a brawl broke out between the American and the attacker over who was next in line.

The embassy was once heavily fortified, but security measures have been relaxed despite street protests during the past two years in nearby Tahrir Square, the focal point of the uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

The attacker was arrested and questioned by police, according to the security official.

A medic at the al-Qasr al-Aini hospital said the American was admitted to the emergency room, but declined to disclose further details.

Both officials spoke on

condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Crime, including armed robberies, rape and assaults, has surged in Egypt in the past two years since the uprising. The country is awash with weapons smuggled across the border from Libya and elsewhere. Egypt's police force — despised for its rampant rights abuses under Mubarak — nearly collapsed amid the 18-day revolt and has since struggled to recover.

On Sept. 11, thousands of ultraconservative Salafis scaled the walls of the Embassy to rip apart the U.S. flag and replace it with an Islamic banner. The rally was prompted by a video made in the United States that ridiculed Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

The same night, Islamic militants attacked the U.S. mission in the eastern city of Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans there. □

were carried out. The younger Gilani was leaving an election event in the city of Multan in southern Punjab province when attackers pulled up in a car and motorcycle, sprayed the area with bullets, threw him into one of the vehicles and drove off, officials and witnesses said. "One of the gunmen grabbed Haider, who had

blood splashed on his trousers," said rally participant Shehryar Ali in comments aired by Pakistani television broadcaster Geo News.

The former prime minister has been campaigning heavily in Multan to help his three sons, who are all running for elected office in the district, but he was not at the rally when his son was taken. □

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Karzai says US can have 9 Afghan bases after 2014

KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has irked Washington with his frequent criticism of American military operations in his country, said Thursday that his government is now ready to let the U.S. have nine bases across Afghanistan after most foreign troops withdraw in 2014.

A border spat with Pakistan and a desire to test public opinion led Karzai to break months of public silence on this issue, according to Afghan analysts. They said Karzai is concerned that Pakistan is using the Taliban to give it greater leverage, and that he wants to find out if Afghans, tired of 12 years of war, will support that size of a U.S. military footprint.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Thursday that the U.S. "does not seek permanent military bases in Afghanistan." The U.S. military presence in Af-



Afghan President Hamid Karzai gestures during a ceremony at Kabul University in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, May 9, 2013. Karzai said he is ready to let the U.S. have nine bases in the country after the 2014 combat troop pullout, but wants Washington's "security and economic guarantees" first.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

ghanistan after 2014 would be "only at the request of the Afghan government," Carney said.

Carney wouldn't say whether the U.S. was perhaps seeking a temporary presence on nine bases. An American defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the negotiations with the media, said earlier that he had not heard the number nine mentioned previously. But Karzai said that's how many bases the Americans had requested.

"We are giving the bases, nine bases they want from Afghanistan — in all of Afghanistan," he said.

Karzai said the U.S. wants bases in Kabul; Bagram Air Field, north of the capital; Mazar-e-Sharif in the north; Jalalabad and Gardez near the eastern border with Pakistan; Kandahar and Helmand provinces, which are Taliban strongholds in the south; and Shin-dand and Herat in western Afghanistan. In return, Afghanistan wants a U.S. commitment to boost Afghan security, strengthen its armed forces and provide long-term economic development assistance.

"It is our condition that they bring security and bring it quickly and strengthen the Afghan forces and the economy," he said. □

Canadian venture to pay more for Dominican gold

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) —

A Canadian joint venture and the government of the Dominican Republic announced an agreement Wednesday on new terms

for the operation of a big gold mine, resolving an acrimonious dispute over whether the Caribbean country had gotten a fair royalty deal for its natural resources.

The new terms eliminate one of the most controversial provisions of the old contract, a requirement that the venture majority owned by Barrick Gold Corp. would not have to begin paying a net profit tax until it made a 10 percent return above the cost of its initial investment, according to the company and government officials. The new agreement will increase the rate of payments to the Dominican Republic, helping the government address its budget deficit by providing an additional \$1.5 billion over the life of the mine, Barrick spokesman Andy Lloyd said.

"We see ourselves as a long-term investor here and we see it as in our interest to support the economic stability of the country," Lloyd said.

Barrick, based in Toronto, and Goldcorp Inc. of Vancouver reopened the long-dormant Pueblo Viejo mine

north of Santo Domingo last year.

At nearly \$4 billion, it is the largest single private investment in the country's history and the company had said it would provide about \$7 billion in revenue to the government over the 25-year-life of the mine. In recent months, the government sought to renegotiate the terms of the contract amid a budget shortfall and public anger over what many people felt was a deal that was overly generous to the joint venture. As negotiations bogged down, with the company insisting it had a legally binding contract, the government in March briefly detained a company shipment of gold and silver valued at nearly \$12 million.

The proposed new contract must still be presented to the Dominican congress and receive approval from the board of directors of both Barrick and Goldcorp and lenders. □



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Putin on Victory Day: Russia a security guarantor



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, greets senior officers after the Victory Day Parade on the Red Square, which commemorates the 1945 defeat of Nazi Germany in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

(AP Photo/A. Zemlianichenko)

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia will be a guarantor of world security, President Vladimir Putin said Thursday at the annual military parade on Red Square.

Putin made his short speech at the culmination of Victory Day, marking the

defeat of Nazi Germany 68 years ago. It is Russia's most important secular holiday, honoring the huge military and civilian losses of World War II and showing off the country's modern arsenal. Putin told 11,000 servicemen standing in tight for-

mation on the square and the war veterans in the spectator stands that "we remember what the tragedy of war means and will do everything so that nobody will ever dare to unleash it anew, threaten our children, our homes and our land."

He added, "We will do everything to strengthen security on the planet."

The Soviet Union lost an es-

timated 26 million people in the war, of whom 8.5 million were soldiers.

Among the thousands of spectators along the square were elderly World War II veterans, displaying rows of medals.

Putin lauded them, saying "We will always remember that it was Russia, the Soviet Union, that ruined the misanthropic, bloody, arrogant plans of

the fascists."

The precisely choreographed parade included servicemen marching through the 5.5-acre (2.3-hectare) square and a convoy of more than 100 military vehicles ranging from armored cars to mobile missile-launchers and tanks. In the concluding display, more than 60 military aircraft flew over the square in close formation. □

Venezuela: US officials get access to American

M. WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's government has granted U.S. diplomats access to a California man who is being held while he awaits trial on charges of espionage and fomenting unrest.

An Embassy spokesperson said Thursday that officials have been permitted to meet with Timothy Tracy, who was arrested by intelligence agents following Venezuela's April 14 presi-

dential election.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because Embassy personnel are not authorized to discuss Tracy's case.

Tracy's relatives say the filmmaker had been making a documentary about Venezuelan politics for six months before his was arrested.

The Embassy spokesperson said no additional details of Tracy's arrest or status could be discussed due to privacy considerations. □



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St. Maarten: Prison for 3 in killing of US couple

JUDY FITZPATRICK

Associated Press

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten (AP) — A judge in St.

Maarten convicted three men and issued prison sentences this week in the killing of a South Carolina couple in the Caribbean country.

Lead defendant Meyshane Johnson was found guilty of all six charges against him, including two counts of murder in the deaths Michael and Thelma King of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Judge Tamara Tjihuis imposed a life sentence, citing the cruel nature of the crime and the possibility that he might commit similar crimes if released.

"You have not shown any remorse," Tjihuis told Johnson, a citizen of Jamaica

who worked as a security guard in St. Maarten. "Only a life sentence is justified." Jeremiah Mills, who was on probation for robbery, was acquitted of the murder charge but convicted of being an accomplice. The judge sentenced him to 28 years in prison.

Jamal Woolford was convicted of being an accessory and received 22 years. Authorities portrayed the killing as part of a crime spree that included the robbery of a Chinese restaurant, for which all three were also convicted.

The judge issues a verdict and sentence at the same time under the St. Maarten legal system.

Friends and relatives of the Kings wept as the verdicts were read out. Gasps were heard from the audience

when Johnson turned and smiled to the gallery as he was led out of court following the verdict.

Michael King, a retired insurance executive, and his wife owned a home in St. Maarten, which shares an island with the French dependency of St. Martin. Their throats were slashed and their house looted in the September attack.

Johnson's lawyer, Brenda Brooks, had argued that her client did not intend to kill the couple and should be convicted of the lesser charge of manslaughter. She said Wednesday that she would appeal the verdict and sentence.

The three men are expected to serve their sentences in St. Maarten's Pointe Blanche prison. □



An undated picture of Michael and Thelma King of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, that hangs inside Topper's Restaurant in Simpson Bay, St. Maarten. A judge in St. Maarten this week convicted three men and issued prison sentences in the killing of the South Carolina couple who owned a home in the Caribbean country.

(AP Photo/Judy Fitzpatrick)

Dominica: Man charged in US college student's death

ROSEAU, Dominica (AP) —

A Dominica man has been charged with manslaughter in the death of a U.S. college student who was struck by a dive boat's propeller. Casey Schulman of Falls Church, Virginia, was hit by the boat in December as she swam in waters

just off a beach where her classmates were relaxing. The fourth-year University of Virginia student was visiting Dominica with more than 50 other students as part of the school's "Semester at Sea" program.

On Thursday, police in Dominica arrested and

charged local hotel owner Andrew Armour, who was the captain of the boat. He was apparently moving the vessel in reverse when he hit Schulman.

He was not required to make a plea on Thursday. He is due back in court next week. □

Former Haitian president Aristide jabs island leader

TRENTON DANIEL

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) —

Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide emerged from months of seclusion for a second straight day and took several swipes at the current government.

Speaking to a small group of mostly Haitian reporters and The Associated Press at his home in the capital on Thursday, Aristide covered topics ranging from his shock at seeing the devastation caused by the 2010 earthquake to his political party's strength as the country heads to legislative and local elections. He also thanked the thousands of supporters who cheered his motorcade Wednesday during a rare outing to answer a judge's questions in a closed-door testimony in the case of slain journalist. The crowds comprised one of the biggest demonstrations of its kind in years.

Aristide then took a few subtle jabs at President Michel Martelly, saying the government has not done enough to address hunger in the impoverished country and called the administration's tax on international calls and money transfers to fund an education program a "problem."

"With all the respect that I have for the authorities in place, they are not able to solve the hunger problem by themselves," Aristide said in the office of his residence, calling it one of Haiti's "biggest problems." "People know that when a dog is hungry it's doesn't play," Aristide said, quoting a Haitian proverb that roughly means that hungry people can be unpredictable and even dangerous. Aristide began to weep as he recalled watching images of Haiti's 2010 earthquake while in exile in South Africa. He said he only ventured out of his house once, on May 1, 2011, since his return earlier that year, but didn't say where he went.

He said his second public



Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at his home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, May 9, 2013. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

excursion since his March 2011 return occurred Wednesday, when he was ordered to answer questions in the case of a slain journalist. Instead of returning straight to his home, he toured the capital shantytowns where he is still popular, drawing crowds of supporters as he passed through each neighborhood. Aristide said the trek also allowed him to see the earthquake's devastation firsthand.

"I now know what it's like for you to be unable to leave the suffering caused by goudougoudou," Aristide said, using a common Haitian term for the quake. Aristide remains popular here, but was a divisive figure during his two presidential terms. He has kept a low profile since returning from exile in South Africa, showing up in public previously only for a brief television appearance from his home shortly after coming back.

The former leader acknowledged to reporters he had been silent for the past two years, but said no one ordered him to keep quiet.

"I chose not to speak," he said. "I speak when I need to speak, and no one can stop me from speaking."

Aristide told reporters that he believed his Lavalas political party will be a contender during a future vote to fill 10 Senate seats and scores of local posts. Haitian authorities are under pressure to organize the election by year's end. □



A Toast to Ruth's Chris Steak House 5th Anniversary in Aruba!

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (May 8, 2013) – On Monday May 6, Ruth's Chris Aruba celebrated its 5th anniversary

with a sold out "Rat Pack tribute" dinner show for their distinguished guests. As guests entered the red

carpet, they were welcomed by video footage of the original Rat Pack trio. After enjoying a special 4-course set plated dinner, guests were entertained with funky jazz tunes by live local band and singer Michelangelo recreating the music of Rat Pack trio Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis. The audience sang loudly along with favorite's New York, New York, That's Amore, My Way and Mr. Bojangle. The Ruth's Chris team handed out complimentary glasses of champagne to toast to the Ruth's Chris Steak House 5th anniversary.

Ruth's Chris manager Wiebe de Roos was pleased to see the success of the event and the responses of guests. "We wanted to do something different, bringing back the feeling of the 60s and honoring the first Ruth's Chris in New Orleans," said de Roos.

A special thank you goes out to the Ruth's Chris team, who have been working there since the opening five years ago and to the Arion Wine Company, Elite productions and Michelangelo and the Trio Band for making it a great event. Pabien Ruth's Chris Steak House Aruba.

Ruth's Chris Steak House, Inc. is the largest fine-dining company in the U.S., as measured by the total number of company-owned and franchise-



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Aruba Like Its 1999!

Bugaloe welcomes back loyal guests Paul and Lynn Polk!



PALM BEACH - This week Bugaloe is welcome back loyal guests Paul and Lynn Polk, whom have been coming to aruba since 1999! They are from Chica-

go and have always loved Aruba for the friendly people, the sun and beautiful beaches! Bugaloe has a special place in their heart for the waitresses and bar-

tenders that always know how to entertain them! Their favorite menu item is the chicken BLT wrap together with an ice cold Amstel Bright and Balashi



Chill! Their best memory of Bugaloe is when they came walking in and saw bartender Ricky back behind the bar, who had become a true friend through

the years! The Bugaloe crew would like to thank Paul and Lynn for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often! □

Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds Aruba receives a great surprise from Arion

ORANJESTAD - President of the Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (KWF) Lilian Prince graciously received Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company (AWC) recently: logical, as the proceeds of its annual fundraising event would be donated to this very worthy charity that aids cancer victims in a number of ways. Although it was not really a surprise that a substantial cheque would be forthcoming courtesy of the ninth Wentse Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament, the record amount of AWG. 20.000,- that the fundraising event had generated was truly awesome and very welcome indeed.

The tournament, which is organized by Aruba's representative of Wentse Vineyards, Arion Wine Company, is held in a two-men scramble format. Participants of the tournament are treated like royalty, with a welcome reception, a bottle of chilled Wentse Vineyards Wine to keep them going throughout the event and a delicious bagged lunch courtesy of Papiamento Restaurant. Held at Tierra del Sol, the

awards presentation is always memorable, with a great soup buffet reviving the tired, windblown golfers. Winners of the 2013 edition were David Pepin and Jerry Mattern, who won a round trip to Wentse Vineyards in Livermore Valley California, but of course the real winner here is the cancer foundation KWF.

Arion Wine Company would like to thank the players as well as the many sponsors of the Wentse Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament for their invaluable support, which resulted in such a grand amount of money for the charity of choice. Sponsors of the tournament included American Airlines, Aruba Airport Authority, Aruba Bank, Riedel The Wine Glass Company, Crystal Casino, Fatum, Nagico Aruba NV, Plus Accountants, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar, Toyota Prius, Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland in Aruba, Oduber & Kan, Albo Aruba NV, Aruba Sotheby's International Realty, Complete Logistics, Total Cleaning, Elmar, Floramarket, Home and Nature, Paradera Park and Engysol. □

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Located at Renaissance Resort

At Amazonia Churrascaria: Xanthe Lobbrecht celebrates her first communion!

PALM BEACH – Family members and friends were welcomed to Amazonia Churrascaria for the Holy Communion celebration of cute Xanthe Lobbrecht, who experienced her first holy mass earlier in the

day at her neighborhood church. In addition to prime cuts of choice grilled meats and a sensational 52 item fresh-ingredient salad bar, the restaurant also served generous slices of her two-tiered frosted and decorated Holy Communion cake, as part of the party menu. Xanthe was warmly congratulated by her family members and all other guests who attended the unforgettable affair. □



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Andy Murray from Britain returns the ball during the match against Gilles Simon from France at the Madrid Open tennis tournament, in Madrid, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Associated Press

Federer loses to Nishikori at Madrid Open

JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

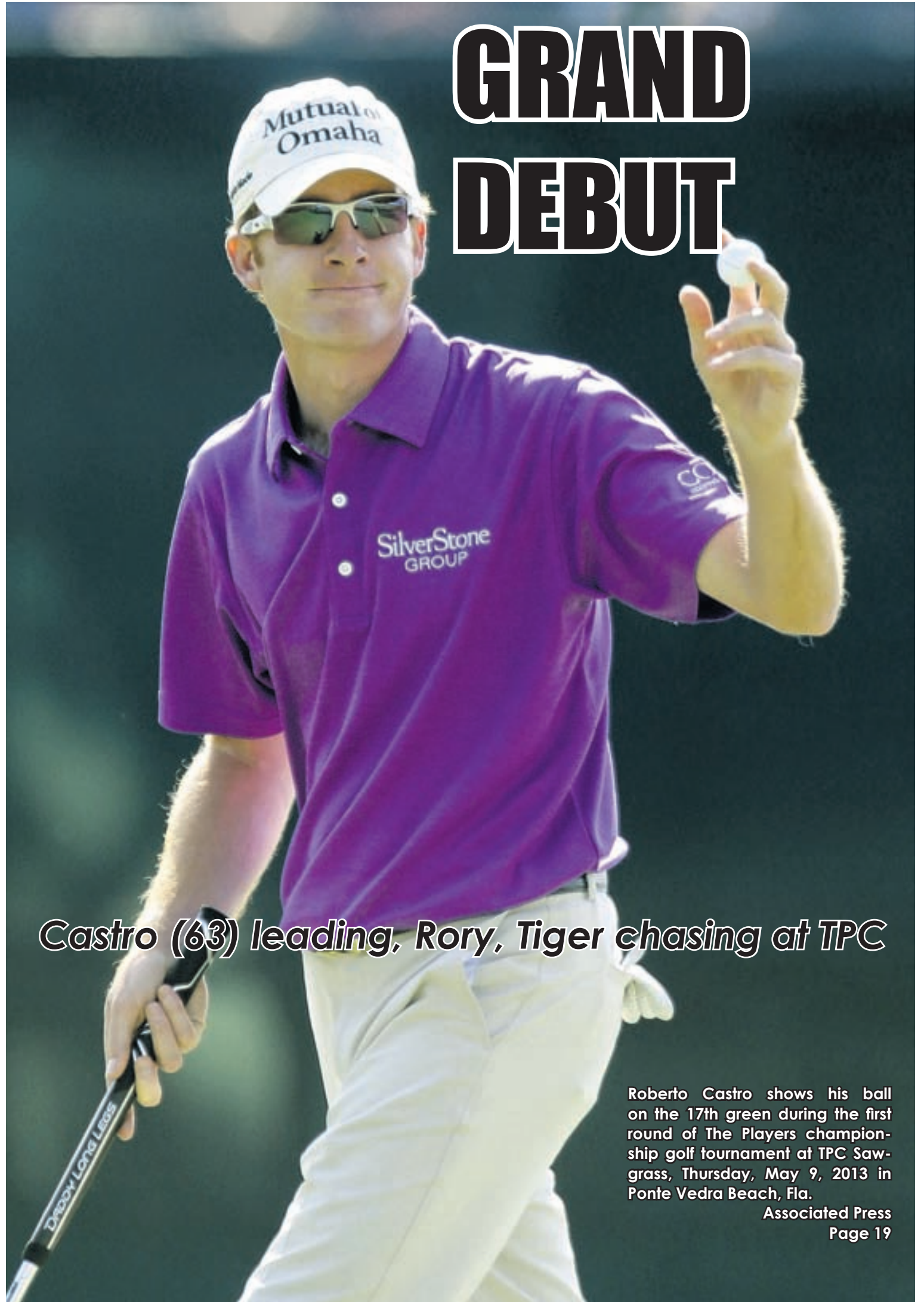
MADRID (AP) — The slippery blue clay may be gone, but the Madrid Open continues to produce surprises. Second-ranked Roger Federer was ousted by Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 in Thursday's third round, leaving Rafael Nadal as the either the clear front-runner for the title or the next big name who should be wary of an upset.

Nadal didn't let his sore knee get in the way of downing Mikhail Youzhny 6-2, 6-3 to reach a quarterfinal with David Ferrer, while third-seeded Andy Murray had to come from behind to edge past Gilles Simon 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (6).

"Clearly the favorite for this tournament is Nadal," Federer said.

Continued on Page 18

GRAND DEBUT



Castro (63) leading, Rory, Tiger chasing at TPC

Roberto Castro shows his ball on the 17th green during the first round of The Players championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass, Thursday, May 9, 2013 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press
Page 19

British sailor dies when America's Cup boat upends

SUDHIN THANAWALA

TERRY COLLINS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

British Olympic gold medalist Andrew "Bart" Simpson died when the Swedish catamaran training for the America's Cup capsized in San Francisco Bay on Thursday. Artemis Racing said Simpson, their strategist, died after the boat's platform trapped him underwater for about 10 minutes around 1 p.m. local time.

Artemis said doctors "afloat" with the team and on shore couldn't revive Simpson after he was freed from the wreckage.

"The entire Artemis team is devastated by what happened," CEO Paul Cayard said in a statement on the team's website. "Our heartfelt condolences are with Andrew's wife and family."

The 36-year-old Simpson and his partner Iain Percy won the Olympic Star class in 2008 and the silver medal at last year's London Games. He also won the world title in 2010.

Percy is Artemis' director



Andy Murray from Britain returns the ball during the match against Gilles Simon from France at the Madrid Open tennis tournament, in Madrid, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

and the boat's tactician. Artemis announced on Feb. 23 that Simpson was joining the team to "provide weather and tactics support" to the crew.

Officials said winds were blowing between 15 and 20 knots when the boat capsized.

The National Weather Service later in the day is-

sued a small-craft advisory, warning inexperienced mariners to stay off the bay and indicating winds of between 21 knots and 33 knots.

The Artemis boat flipped in winds of about 20 knots near Treasure Island, which is bisected by the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge. The armada of rescue

Associated Press

boats and helicopters were visible from the bridge.

Simpson and an unidentified injured sailor were brought to shore at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco, where paramedics performed CPR on Simpson. He was pronounced dead a short time later.

The other sailor suffered

minor injuries, and the rest of the 11-man crew was accounted for and taken back to their dock in Alameda in a boat operated by Oracle Racing, the America's Cup holder.

The boat that capsized is a specially built 72-foot (22-meter) catamaran that can reach speeds of 45 mph (72 kph).

Coast Guard Lt. Jeannie Crump said it did not know the extent of the damage to the boat, but she added a commercial salvage boat was on scene to tow the catamaran to Clipper Cove.

She added that Coast Guard officials weren't sure what caused the catamaran to capsize.

Artemis Racing, representing the Royal Swedish Yacht Club, is the challenger of record for the cup. The Louis Vuitton Cup for challengers starts on July 4, with the winner facing Oracle in the 34th America's Cup from Sept. 7.

This is the second time a sailor has died during training for the America's Cup. □

Madrid Open

Continued from front

Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova — the top two seeded women — also reached the quarters in straight sets.

Last year, Federer didn't let the slick "Smurf-colored" clay stop him from winning his third title in Madrid. But now with the old-fashioned red clay back at the Caja Magica, Federer only managed to look like the star he is for a spell.

Yet Federer wasn't the first highly-ranked player to fall. World No. 1 Novak Djokovic was ousted on Tuesday, a day before Victoria Azarenka followed in a temper tantrum.

After recovering from Nishikori's strong start, Federer looked like he'd found his stride as he roared back in the second set.

But Nishikori reasserted his ground game in the decider, after breaking Federer



Kei Nishikori from Japan looks at the ball during the match against Roger Federer from Switzerland at the Madrid Open tennis tournament, in Madrid, Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Associated Press

for a 3-1 advantage, and held on for the surprising victory.

Nishikori said beating Federer after losing their only previous meeting was one of the high points of his still burgeoning career.

"He was my idol and to beat him was one of the goals for my tennis career,"

the 16th-ranked Nishikori said. "Beating Roger is, yeah ... I need a couple of days to celebrate."

Federer came to Madrid after a seven-week layoff. He said the gusting winds hurt his game, but he gave all credit to Nishikori.

"He was the better player today for sure," Federer

said. "I was lacking control from the baseline and that carried through from start to finish. Overall I'm disappointed with my play."

Federer said he will not change his plans and will now train for Rome and then the French Open.

This was Nishikori's fourth win over a top-five opponent. Nishikori will next play Pablo Andujar, who advanced when fellow Spaniard Daniel Gimeno-Traver retired.

Nadal's commanding win over Youzhny featured an array of winning shots.

Having already established control by stealing Youzhny's second service game, Nadal kept a point alive with a deft no-look backhand flick before nailing a winner down the line to hold his serve and delight his fans.

The fifth-ranked Spaniard then broke Youzhny again by dinking the ball over the net while on the run, giving it so much backspin it twist-

ed away from the Russian. Nadal, who is searching for his seventh straight final since returning from injury, improved to 28 wins and two losses on the year.

Nadal said he was still bothered by his left knee, which has sidelined him this year with a nagging case of tendinitis.

"Sometimes I have pain," Nadal said. "I try to avoid talking about it as much as possible. With respect to my rivals it's not the moment to analyze how I am." Nadal's next opponent, Ferrer, outlasted Tommy Haas 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

Murray looked stiff as he conceded the first set to Simon but the Scot improved, and after winning a long game to break back early in the second set, slowly imposed his will. Even so, he squandered five match points before Simon netted his final approach shot in the tiebreaker to end the match in just under three hours. □

Castro opens with a 63 in Players debut

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) —

Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy had their best start ever in The Players Championship.

It still wasn't enough to catch a man who had never played the TPC Sawgrass.

Roberto Castro hit shots to tap-in range on the 17th and 18th holes on his way to a 9-under 63. That tied the course record held by Greg Norman and Fred Couples, and gave him a three-shot lead over McIlroy.

"I hit it close a lot," said Castro, making it sound as easy as it looked.

Woods had to work a little harder in the afternoon, when a breeze arrived and the sun began to make the green firm. Even so, he was on the cusp of his first bogey-free round in his 16 years at The Players until his 8-iron from 200 yards went just over the green and he flubbed his chip. The bogey gave him a 67, which was the first time he has broken 70 in the opening round at Sawgrass.

"It was a day that I felt I had to shoot something in the 60s," Woods said. "Most of the guys were under par in the morning session."

Half of the players who played early broke par, a rarity at this tournament.

Vijay Singh, playing one day after he sued the PGA Tour for its handling of his doping case, was largely ignored while playing in the group behind Woods. One fan wore felt deer antlers in the bleachers behind the first tee — Singh's case involved taking deer antler spray — but only a dozen or so people followed the 50-year-old Fijian on the back nine and it was a quiet day.

At one point, Singh let out a hearty laugh walking off the tee with Robert Garrigus and J.J. Henry. His golf wasn't the subject of the laughter. Singh hit into the water on the last hole and made bogey for a 74, leaving him in danger of missing the cut.

So ended a first round

filled with plenty of action — a record-tying score by a player hardly anyone knows, McIlroy breaking par for the first time at Sawgrass, 17 balls in the water around the island-green 17th and 33 rounds in the 60s.

Padraig Harrington followed an eagle with a double bogey. Michael Thompson made a hole-in-one.

But it all started with Castro, a 27-year-old who felt like he couldn't miss. His record-tying score was posted as players were on the practice range getting ready to tee off in the afternoon, making it tough to stay patient on a course that demands it. Woods was nine shots behind before he hit his first shot.

"I've seen that a lot, but not at this golf course," he said.

He did well to get within four shots. Woods, Webb Simpson and Ryan Palmer at 67 had the lowest round among those who played late, and they now turn around and get the morning conditions — hopeful they'll be the same — on Friday.

McIlroy also played in the morning, in the same group as Masters champion Adam Scott (69) and Steve Stricker (67).

The 24-year-old from Northern Ireland had never made the cut or even broken par at The Players, but McIlroy figured it out on a gorgeous morning by dialing it back off the tee and letting his iron play take over. McIlroy never came seriously close to a bogey, and he didn't hit drive once on the front nine.

"When you hit the shots, it seems very simple," McIlroy said. "I had a lot of good shots out there, lot of iron shots that were 12, 15 feet away from the pin and I got myself a lot of looks for birdies. I adopted maybe more of a conservative strategy off the tee this year. But once you put your ball in the fairway that means you can be more aggressive into the greens. So it sort of balances itself out."



Roberto Castro hits from the ninth tee during the first round of The Players championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass, Thursday, May 9, 2013, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Castro finished at 9-under-par 63, tying the course record. Associated Press

The Stadium Course has rarely looked so vulnerable with barely a trace of wind and some pins in bowls that allowed for good looks at birdie. Half the 72 players in the morning broke par.

But the punishment is never far away, as Scott Stallings discovered. He opened with five straight birdies to get everyone's attention,

but after going out in 31, Stallings gave most of it back with a bogey, double bogey and a triple bogey on the 16th when he hit two balls into the water. He shot 40 on the back for a 71.

"It just goes to show about the golf course and really how volatile it is," Stallings said.

Castro hasn't discovered that yet. This was a day when everything went right.

He made three birdies early in his round on the back until making his tap-in birdies on the 17th and 18th. Then, he hit 3-iron into 3 feet on the par-5 second hole for an eagle and was 7-under through 11 holes. □

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Parity abounds so far in NBA conference semifinals

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

Parity has struck the NBA playoffs, where the conference semifinals are all tied. The four series are all drawn at one game apiece — the first time that's happened in the second round of the NBA playoffs since the league went to its current format more than a quarter-century ago.

For favorites like Miami, New York, San Antonio and Oklahoma City, home-court advantage has disappeared, and now it's the underdogs who can control their own fates simply by taking care of business on their home floors. A wild weekend is ahead, without question.

The Heat, Knicks, Spurs and Thunder are four of the league's top five road teams this season. That probably isn't being received as great news for Chicago, Indiana, Golden



Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah, far right, yells out after he and Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) received technical fouls during the first half of Game 2 of their NBA basketball playoff series in the Eastern Conference semifinals, Wednesday, May 8, 2013, in Miami.

Associated Press

State and Memphis, the lower-seeded clubs who will be hosting pivotal Game 3s when playoff action resumes on Friday and Saturday.

"Pretty cool. The NBA's loving it," Heat forward LeBron James said. "When

it comes to the playoffs, I always continue to say no matter how many games you win or lose in the regular season, once you get to the playoffs everybody's record is 0-0. So I think it's great. I think it's great for our fans, I think it's great for the competition that every series is tied 1-1."

After a first round with only two sweeps — by Miami and San Antonio, the top

seeds in the Eastern and Western Conferences — the tone for the second round was set pretty quickly around the league. Miami lost Game 1 at home to a wounded and weary team from Chicago. San Antonio needed a huge comeback to beat Golden State in Game 1 of their series, then saw the Warriors simply come back and take Game 2.

The Knicks lost Game 1 to Indiana before evening up their matchup, and the Thunder are likely feeling lucky that they're not in a 0-2 hole after Memphis had plenty of chances to take the opening game of their series. "When you get this deep into the playoffs, they're all good teams, they're all very good teams more than capable of winning at home or on the road," Golden State coach Mark Jackson said. "So I'm not surprised at all. Good coaching, good playing, you make adjustments and win games. They've all been great games."

Big fourth-quarter comebacks, first by Oklahoma City and then by Memphis, decided the outcomes of the first two games of that series, where the cumulative score right now is Grizzlies 190, Thunder 186. The first two Spurs-Warriors games were pure theater, with San Antonio winning a double-overtime thriller in Game 1 after rallying from 16 points down late in regulation. □

Denver's Karl earns NBA Coach of the Year honors



Denver Nuggets head coach George Karl smiles after receiving the Red Auerback trophy for being named the NBA Coach of the Year during a news conference, Wednesday, May 8, 2013, in Denver.

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — George Karl is the NBA's Coach of the Year after leading the Denver Nuggets to a team-record 57 wins.

Karl received 62 first-place votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Golden State eliminated the Nuggets 92-88 in Game 6 of the first-round playoff series last week.

Associated Press

It's the first time Karl has won the award in 25 seasons. He joins Doug Moe as the only Denver coaches to earn the honor.

Karl says he's "honored and energized" to receive the award.

The Nuggets won 15 straight games at one point this going, going 24-4 after the All-Star break. They also won a franchise-best 38 home games. □

A romp for the Heat, who top Bulls 115-78

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Ray Allen scored 21 points in only 19 minutes, LeBron James finished with 19 points and nine assists, and the Miami Heat led by as many as 46 on the way to a 115-78 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night that tied their Eastern Conference series at a game apiece.

It was the largest margin of victory in the Heat's post-season history, topping a 35-point win over Orlando on April 24, 1997.

Joakim Noah and Taj Gibson were ejected in the fourth quarter for Chicago, and the league will almost certainly review some of the things said and done in a game that was close for the first 20 minutes before

turning into an embarrassment for the Bulls, who were called for six technicals — the most by any team in a playoff game since Boston had that many against Indiana in 2005.

Game 3 is Friday in Chicago.

Dwyane Wade added 15 points and Chris Bosh had 13 for the Heat, who led 42-38 with 3:42 left in the first half, before going on an absurd 62-20 run. Yes, 62-20.

Marco Belinelli scored 13 points for the Bulls, who were without Luol Deng (illness) and Kirk Hinrich (calf). Carlos Boozer and Nate Robinson combined for 19 points on 6-of-19 shooting. **WARRIORS 100, SPURS 91**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Klay Thompson scored 34 points,

Stephen Curry added 22 and Golden State withstood another furious rally by San Antonio to even their Western Conference series 1-1.

Thompson, who scored 29 points in the first half, added 14 rebounds for Golden State, which snapped a 30-game losing streak in the Alamo City. The Warriors had not won in San Antonio since Feb. 14, 1997.

Harrison Barnes had 13 points, Carl Landry 10 and Andrew Bogut had six points and 11 rebounds.

Tim Duncan scored 23 points and Tony Parker added 20 for San Antonio. Manu Ginobili had 12 points and Kawhi Leonard had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Warriors host Game 3 on Friday night. □

NHL Playoff Capsules

Senators up 3-1, look to close out Montreal

TORONTO (AP) — David Krejci scored his third goal of the night at 13:06 of overtime Wednesday, giving the Boston Bruins a 4-3 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs and a 3-1 lead in their playoff series. Krejci beat James Reimer with a shot from the faceoff circle after coming down the left wing. The Bruins are 15-2 when

for the York Rangers, who squandered a two-goal lead and then held on to get even in the best-of-seven series. Girardi ripped a shot from above the left circle, off a feed from Derick Brassard, to give the Rangers the lead again with a power-play goal 59 seconds into the third. The advantage was created by Jason Chi-

man rush eight minutes into overtime and the Los Angeles Kings beat the St. Louis Blues for the third straight time, 3-2 Wednesday night. The win put the defending Stanley Cup champions on the verge of surviving the first round, leading 3-2 heading to Game 6 in Los Angeles on Friday night. Alex Pietrangelo scored

Ducks moved to the brink of the second round. Defenseman Ben Lovejoy took the puck behind the Detroit net and fed it in front. Bonino scored for the Ducks, who took a 3-2 series lead. Game 6 is Friday night at Joe Louis Arena, where the Ducks will attempt to close out just their second playoff series victory since

winning the Stanley Cup in 2007. Johan Franzen and Mikael Samuelsson scored for the Red Wings, who had two brief leads. Jimmy Howard stopped 31 shots. Captain Ryan Getzlaf tied it, Kyle Palmieri also scored, and Jonas Hiller made 29 saves in Anaheim's first victory in three overtime games in the series.



Anaheim Ducks center Ryan Getzlaf celebrates his goal against the Detroit Red Wings during the second period in Game 5 of their first-round NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff series in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Associated Press

leading a best-of-seven series 3-1. And Toronto is 2-12-1 in its last 15 games in Boston. Joffrey Lupul, Cody Franson and Clarke MacArthur scored for Toronto. Patrice Bergeron added a goal for Boston, with captain Zdeno Chara collecting four assists. Goalies Tuukka Rask and Reimer were both busy in an end-to-end overtime, with Toronto's Matt Frattin hitting Rask's goalpost. Rangers 4, Capitals 3
NEW YORK (AP) — Dan Girardi and Derek Stepan scored third-period goals

mera's interference penalty at the end of the second. Stepan made it 4-2 at 6:02, scoring into a wide-open net at the end of a give-and-go play in front with Carl Hagelin, who had a goal and two assists. Game 5 will be back in Washington on Friday before the series returns to Madison Square Garden on Sunday. The home team has won all four games in the first-round Eastern Conference matchup. Kings 3, Blues 2, OT
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Slava Voynov scored on an odd-

on a wrist shot from the point with 44.1 seconds remaining in regulation and goalie Brian Elliott off for an extra attacker. That forced overtime for the second time in the series. The Kings' Justin Williams scored in the final minute of Game 1, also in St. Louis. Jeff Carter scored in the opening minute of the second and third periods for the Kings, who became the first road team to win in the series. Red Wings 3, Ducks 2, OT
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Nick Bonino scored 1:54 into overtime, and the

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MAY 9 - 15

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IRON MAN 3
MON - THURS 5:20 | 8:10
FRI 5:20 | 8:10 | 11:00
SAT 2:30 | 3:40 | 5:20 | 8:10 | 11:00
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 3:40 | 5:20 | 8:10
MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:30 | 7:00 | 9:20
FRI - SAT 4:10 | 6:30 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 10:25
SUN & HOL 4:10 | 6:30 | 7:00 | 9:20

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FRI 5:35 | 8:20 | 11:05
SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:20 | 11:05
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:20

The Big Wedding
MON - THURS 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30
FRI 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30 | 11:40
SAT 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30

OBLIVION
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 9:15
FRI 9:15
SAT 9:15
SUN & HOL 9:15

THE CROODS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 4:45 | 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00

SCARY MOVIE
MON - THURS 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35
FRI 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40
SAT 3:20 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40
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JANE E. BRODY

For all her talent and determination to help children eat better, Michelle Obama could still pick up a few pointers from Helen Butleroff-Leahy, a 66-year-old former Rockette turned registered dietitian.

Butleroff-Leahy devotes her time to teaching children in disadvantaged neighborhoods about eating healthfully and exercising regularly. Her lessons take the form of musical productions, rehearsed in classrooms and on the stages of 52 New York City public schools so far. Children from each school do gymnastics and dance to a rap-based script by Roumel Reaux that entertains while explaining the essentials of good nutrition. The 45-minute production by Butleroff-Leahy is called "My Plate: The New Food Guide Musical."

Truth be told, Butleroff-Leahy's lessons, both nutritional and dramatic, could benefit American children in every socioeconomic group, for none are immune to the foods laden with sugar, salt and calories that pervade our society, both within and outside schools. I had the opportunity to watch her in action last month at Public School 81 in Brooklyn, where enthusiastic 8-year-olds from four second-grade classes joined four professionals to proclaim the virtues of "eating for the health of it." Tramaine Montell Ford, a dancer who performed in the movie "Hairspray," portrayed an angelic "bad habit breaker" intent on reforming two junk-food junkies. The actors demonstrated the stultifying effects of poor nutrition, followed by Ford's energizing message: You are what you eat.

You got the power, you got the might

To eat right and keep it light. The action then focused on food groups that foster good health: grains (whole, please) for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks; vegetables (es-

pecially dark-green and orange) and fruits (all colors are nutritious and delicious) for myriad health essentials; protein (meats, beans and nuts) for the strength to get up and go; and dairy (light or skim) for strong bones.

To celebrate vegetables, for example, green-shirted youngsters danced to "Rock Around the Clock," did cartwheels and jumping jacks and spun hula hoops, while other children in red and yellow shirts did break-dancing to Ford's rap about 20 veg-

quences, including Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

"Children learn best through active participation and repetition, both in the classroom and on the stage," Butleroff-Leahy said.

The youngsters' teachers and parents, many with their own significant weight issues, learn alongside the children, who bring their classroom lessons home. One mother at Public School 81 proudly reported that she'd switched from whole milk to 1 percent,

ects, local and national, aimed at countering the often atrocious eating habits of children by arming them with the information and enthusiasm they need to make better food choices.

The Children's Aid Society, for example, has a Go!Healthy initiative that sponsors an "Iron Go!Chef" competition to teach wellness with nutrition and healthy cooking programs for young children. The initiative includes a 24-week nutrition and fitness curriculum for schools and a six-



Helen Butleroff-Leahy, a former Rockette dancer turned registered dietitian, with students at Public School 81, in an undated handout photo. The former Rockette is running a program teaching children in New York City public schools about better nutrition through dance, music and a play.

(Irene Stockton via The New York Times)

etables, which he called "one of nature's greatest wonders." Butleroff-Leahy spends three hours a week for 10 weeks in each school, devoting half an hour in each of three classes to hands-on nutrition lessons and the remaining half-hour to learning and rehearsing the musical. The school then tries to incorporate nutrition information into other lessons and lunchroom offerings. Cheryl Ault-Barker, the principal of Public School 81, said a salad bar now competes successfully with the usual school lunch fare at her school. Still dancer-lean with a cheerleader's energy, Butleroff-Leahy said her mission was to help counter the city's rising rates of childhood obesity and its sooner-or-later conse-

and one of the boys said he now has whole-wheat bread and oat cereal for breakfast.

The project is underwritten by the Ficalora Family Foundation in association with Butleroff-Leahy's non-profit company, the Nutrition and Fitness Education Initiative Inc., and is supplemented by small grants from New York state and the city's Department of Education, which contributes \$1,500 to the school. Each production, start to final applause, costs about \$4,000. Butleroff-Leahy she said she hoped to be able to bring her musical message about healthy eating and exercise to many more schools throughout the country.

Of course, hers is but one of many philanthropic proj-

week wellness program for parents that emphasizes movement, stress reduction and healthy cooking. The Agriculture Department, which oversees school-based food programs, has recently updated the nutrition standards for school meals and is considering guidelines to ensure that the snacks and drinks available in schools also support good health. New menus or school breakfasts and lunches became effective at the start of the current school year. They include more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and are designed to provide nutrient-dense meals from a variety of foods in amounts that support healthy weights for children of different ages. □

Study:

Fish oil benefit limited against heart attacks

M. MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Eating fish is good for your heart, but taking fish oil capsules does not help people at high risk of heart problems who are already taking medicines to prevent them, a large study in Italy found.

The work makes clearer who does and does not benefit from taking supplements of omega-3 fatty acids, the good oils found in fish such as salmon, tuna and sardines.

Previous studies have suggested that fish oil capsules could lower heart risks in people with heart failure or who have already suffered a heart attack. The American Heart Association recommends them only for people who have high levels of fats called triglycerides in their blood, says the group's president, Dr. Donna Arnett of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Fish oil capsules failed to prevent flare-ups of atrial fibrillation, a common heart rhythm problem, in a large study in 2010.

The new study was led by the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan. It tested 1 gram a day of fish oil versus dummy capsules in 12,513 people throughout Italy. They had not suffered a heart attack but were at high risk of having one because of diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, obesity or other conditions. Most already were taking cholesterol-lowering statins, aspirin and other medicines to lower their chances of heart problems.

Researchers at first planned to compare the rate of death, heart attacks and strokes in the two groups, but these were less frequent than anticipated. So they started measuring how long it was before people in either group suffered one of these fates or was hospitalized for heart-related reasons. □

Wearable robots getting lighter, more portable

CARLA K. JOHNSON

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — When Michael Gore stands, it's a triumph of science and engineering. Eleven years ago, Gore was paralyzed from the waist down in a workplace accident, yet he rises from his wheelchair and walks across the room with help from a lightweight wearable robot. The technology has many nicknames. Besides "wearable robot," the inventions also are called "electronic legs" or "powered exoskeletons."

This version, called Indego, is among several competing products being used and tested in U.S. rehab hospitals that hold promise not only for people such as Gore with spinal injuries, but also those recovering from strokes or afflicted with multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy.

Still at least a year away from the market, the 27-pound (12.25-kilogram) Indego is the lightest of the powered exoskeletons. It snaps together from pieces that fit into a backpack. The goal is for the user to be able to carry it on a wheelchair, put it together, strap it on and walk independently.

None of the products, including the Indego, are yet approved by U.S. regulators for personal use, meaning they must be used under the supervision of a physical therapist.

Gore, 42, of Whiteville, North Carolina, demonstrated the device this week at the American Spinal Injury Association meeting in Chicago, successfully negotiating a noisy, crowded hallway of medical professionals and people with spinal injuries in wheelchairs.

When he leans forward, the device takes a first step. When he tilts from side to side, it walks. When Gore wants to stop, he leans back and the robotic leg braces come to a halt. Gore uses forearm crutches for balance. A battery in the hip piece powers the motors in the robotic legs. "Being able to speak with

you eye-to-eye is just a big emotional boost," Gore said to a reporter. "Being able to walk up to you and say hello is not a big thing until you cannot do it."

The devices won't replace wheelchairs, which are faster. None of the devices are speedy enough, for example, for a paralyzed person to walk across a street before the light changes, said Arun Jayaraman of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, who is testing a number of similar devices.

"None of them have fall prevention technology," Jayaraman said. "If the person falls, they can hurt themselves badly. If you fall down, how do you get off a robot that is strapped into you?" They need to be even lighter and have longer-lasting batteries, he said.

Still, Jayaraman said, the devices might help prevent pressure sores from sitting too long in a wheelchair, improve heart health, develop muscle strength, lift depression and ultimately bring down medical costs by keeping healthier patients out of the hospital.

Companies in Israel, New Zealand and California make competing devices, and all the products are becoming less bulky as they are refined. The Indego was invented at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and tested at the Shepherd Center, a rehabilitation hospital in Atlanta. It's now licensed to Cleveland-based Parker Hannifin Corp., which makes precision engineered products like aircraft wheels and brakes.

Like many other research participants in clinical studies, Gore receives a stipend for his participation from Vanderbilt University. It's unclear exactly how much the devices will cost if they become available for personal use. Some technology news media reports have said \$50,000 (£38,000) to \$75,000 (£57,000). Indego's makers want to bring the cost below that, said co-inventor Ryan Farris of Parker Han-

nifin. Experts say it will take years of research to prove health benefits before Medicare and private insurance companies would consider covering the expense.

Paul Tobin, president of the nonprofit advocacy group United Spinal, said wearable robots present an exciting opportunity but that patients should keep their expectations realistic.

"It's going to be critical that people have a thorough medical evaluation before trying something like this, especially if they've been injured for some time," Tobin said. "It won't be appropriate for everyone. For some people, it will be a godsend." □

In this May 6, 2013 photo, Michael Gore, center, who is paralyzed from a spinal injury, walks with the use of the Indego wearable robot under the supervision of physical therapist Clare Hartigan during a meeting of the American Spinal Injury Association at a downtown hotel in Chicago. Associated Press



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Stocks take a breather from record-high levels

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market pulled back from record levels Thursday as investors became harder to please. Even a decline in the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits failed to give stock prices a boost. Markets drifted lower in early trading, fluctuated between gains and losses in the afternoon, then ended slightly lower. The Dow fell 22.5 points, or 0.2 percent, to 15,082.62. The S&P 500 index dropped 6.02 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,626.67.

In other stock trading, the Nasdaq composite index, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, fell 4.10 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,409.17. Unemployment

claims dropped to a five-year low last week, the Labor department reported early Thursday. That signals fewer layoffs and possibly more hiring.

While the report failed to boost stocks, it did give the dollar a lift. The U.S. currency climbed against most major currencies and traded above 100 yen for the first time in more than four years. The Japanese currency has weakened dramatically this year due to the Bank of Japan's massive monetary stimulus. An improvement in hiring at U.S. employers has been one of the key factors that pushed stocks up to record levels. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed above 15,000 for the first time Tuesday and is on track to notch six straight

months of gains. The Standard and Poor's 500 index also closed at a record high Wednesday. The bar

Kinahan, chief derivative strategist at TD Ameritrade. "You have to beat by a lot to really move the market

focus on Thursday.

Tesla Motors soared \$13.61, or 24 percent, to \$69.40, after the electric car maker posted its first quarterly net profit since it was founded a decade ago. Green Mountain Coffee Roasters surged \$16.56, or 27.8 percent, to \$76.04 after the company reported late Wednesday that its net income rose 42 percent. It also raised its earnings forecast for the full year.

Monster Beverage, the maker of energy drinks, fell \$2.96, or 5 percent, to \$54.01, after it reported net income that fell short of analysts' estimates. The company's profits fell 17 percent, despite stronger sales, because of unfavorable currency rates, legal expenses and costs tied to distribution agreements. Almost 90 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 index have reported earnings for the first quarter. Earnings are projected to rise 5 percent for the period and continue climbing throughout the year, according to S&P Capital IQ. So far, markets have defied expectations for a slowdown heading into the summer. The S&P 500 index has started the second quarter well, gaining 1.8 percent so far in the period. The index has declined in the second quarter in each of the past three years. Stocks slumped last year in the May-through-June period as Europe's debt crisis intensified, and in 2011 they dipped as wrangling in Washington pushed the U.S. to the brink of default. "The market has had a phenomenal run," said Ron Florance, managing director of investment strategy at Wells Fargo Private Bank. "We'll have to see how the second quarter plays out." In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year note continued to rise, climbing to 1.82 percent from 1.77 percent on Wednesday. The yield, which moves inversely to the bond's price, has risen sharply since early Friday, when it traded as low as 1.63 percent, its lowest level of the year.



Corey Prinz, center, and Mary Harris, right, of Bank United, applaud the closing bell at the NYSE. The stock market pulled back from record levels Thursday as investors became harder to please. (AP Photo/Kevin R. Wexler)

for economic news and corporate earnings has risen as stock prices have marched higher, said JJ

higher," Kinahan said. Rising corporate earnings, another key support for the stock market, were also in

U.S. retailers report solid gains for April

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans spent more during the early spring months in the latest sign that they're encouraged by the economic recovery.

Falling gas prices, a rallying stock market and gains in the job market all fueled Americans' shopping habits even as cold weather tempered their desire to buy spring fashions.

Revenue at stores open at least a year — an industry measure of a store's health because it excludes results from stores recently opened and closed — rose 4.7 percent in April compared with the same month a year ago, according to a preliminary tally of 12 retailers by the International Council of Shopping Centers. That continues a trend that Americans started in early spring. In March, revenue rose 2.2 percent. And for the combined months of March and April, the figure rose 3.5 percent. While big chains such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp and Macy's Inc. don't report monthly revenue, the stores that do offer economists a snapshot of consumer spending

habits. In total, the retailers that report monthly data represent about 6 percent of the \$2.4 trillion in U.S. retail industry sales.

Among the big winners for

clothing and accessories. That's above Wall Street estimates: Analysts expected a 5.8 percent increase in April, according to a Thomson Reuters poll. TJX



Clothing is modeled on mannequins in a retail store's window display in Baltimore. A report released May 9, 2013, showed Americans spent more during the early spring months as part the latest sign that they're encouraged by the economic recovery. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

April were Ross Stores Inc. and TJX Cos., which operates TJ Maxx and Marshalls stores. Both companies benefited from Americans' desire to buy brand-name fashions at discounted prices. Ross said on Thursday that revenue at stores open at least a year rose 7 percent during April, helped by consumer demand for its low-price

said that revenue at stores opened at least a year climbed 8 percent in April on strong customer traffic. That also tops the 6.8 percent increase that analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected.

"Consumers responded to our extremely fresh selections of branded spring apparel," said Carol Meyrowitz, CEO of TJX in a state-

ment.

But a few retailers posted gains that missed Wall Street estimates.

Costco Wholesale Corp., which accounts for about two-thirds of the retail sales tally, reported that revenue at stores open at least a year climbed 4 percent in April. That's below the 4.5 percent increase analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected the warehouse club-operator to report. Limited posted a 2 percent increase in revenue at stores opened at least a year. Revenue was hurt by the shift of some spring-break business into March due to an early Easter.

That's below the increase of 4.6 percent that Wall Street had expected. But the operator of Victoria's Secret, Pink, and Bath and Body Works raised its guidance in the first quarter.

Even though retailers several retailers posted solid gains during April, the month's results could have been better if it weren't for Mother Nature. Exceptionally cool temperatures lingered in April, which was the coldest in five years, according to weather research firm Planalytics Inc. □

Dollar breaks 100 yen mark

GRAHAM BOWLEY

© 2013 New York Times

The United States dollar broke through the important 100-yen level on Thursday for the first time in four years, seeming to illustrate progress in the Japanese authorities' new efforts to lift the economy out of deflation. After years of Japan's struggling to turn its faltering economy around, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made beating deflation a central point of his economic policy since taking office in late December. Last month, the Bank of Japan announced a decisive break with its earlier policies. Instead of focusing on keeping overnight interest rates close to zero – which seemed to be having little effect in reviving growth – the central bank aimed to double the amount of money in circulation, seeking to produce annual inflation of about 2 percent. That policy now seems to be bearing fruit as money pouring into the economy weakens the yen against the dollar and other world currencies. The yen's move is germinating inflation in an economy that has long been moribund, in the process delivering a competitive boost to the country's big exporters. The Japanese government is not overtly targeting a lower yen rate – something that could raise tensions with other exporting nations like the United States. And while the lower yen is good for Japan's exporters, it may be less good news for U.S. exporting companies. Nevertheless, the promise to drastically change Japan's economic policy and end the long, debilitating era of deflation has caused the dollar to rally for much of this year, and on Thursday it finally broke through the 100-yen level. By midafternoon in New York, the dollar was valued at 100.53 yen. The efforts by the Bank of Japan to continue to flood the economy with liquidity is likely to keep downward pressure on the yen in the coming months. □

Record profit signals healthier Fannie Mae

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fannie Mae said something Thursday that would have been unthinkable a few years ago: It earned a record \$58.7 billion profit in the January-March quarter.

And it made clear it's on the cusp of repaying taxpayers for one of the most expensive bailouts of a single company in the financial crisis.

For Fannie, the future hasn't looked this bright since 2006.

More Americans are buying homes. Prices are rising at a pace not seen since the housing bubble burst. Banks are lending only the most qualified buyers. And many fewer homes are falling into foreclosure.

All of that is a boon to Fannie and its smaller sibling Freddie Mac, which own or guarantee half of all U.S. mortgages and back nearly 90 percent of new ones. When people buy homes and nearly all pay

their mortgage bills, Fannie and Freddie can't help but make piles of money.

And it's a big reason Fannie decided the time was right this year to capitalize on the tax benefits of the bad loans it absorbed during the crisis.

On Thursday, Fannie said that it applied tax credits it had saved from its losses on delinquent loans suffered during the crisis to its first-quarter earnings. By applying those credits to its 2013 taxes, Fannie reduced what it owed the government and boosted its profit.

The result: Fannie made more money from January through March than it had in any other quarter. Of the \$58.7 billion earned, nearly \$51 billion came in part from using the tax credits. That followed \$17.2 billion in profit earned last year. And Fannie says it expects to stay profitable for "the foreseeable future."

Nearly all of that money is going back to the government, which rescued Fannie and Freddie during the

2008 financial crisis with a combined \$187 billion in taxpayer-funded loans.

Under a federal policy adopted last summer, Fannie and Freddie must turn over their entire net worth above \$3 billion in each quarter to the Treasury. Fannie said its net worth in

back roughly \$37 billion of the \$71.3 billion it received. Fannie and Freddie don't directly make loans. Rather, they buy mortgages from lenders, package them as bonds, guarantee them against default and sell them to investors. In doing so, they help make loans available and exert



Fannie Mae said Thursday that it earned a record \$58.7 billion profit in the January-March quarter. (Handout Photo)

the first quarter was \$62.4 billion.

Fannie will pay a dividend of \$59.4 billion to the U.S. Treasury next month. Once that's paid, Fannie will have repaid \$95 billion of the roughly \$116 billion it received. Freddie is also profitable again. It reported Wednesday that it earned \$4.6 billion in the first quarter and will pay a dividend of \$7 billion to the Treasury next month. Once that's collected, it will have paid

influence over the housing market.

For Fannie and Freddie, a better housing market means fewer delinquent loans on their books. The companies are also charging mortgage lenders higher fees to guarantee the loans. With more loans and higher fees, Fannie and Freddie are earning more. Fannie and Freddie are also taking on less risk than during the pre-crisis years. □

Dish dares Softbank to raise bid for Sprint

PETER SVENSSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The chairman of satellite broadcaster Dish Network Corp., which is trying to buy Sprint Nextel Corp., is daring Sprint's other suitor to raise its bid.

Dish's Charlie Ergen told investors and reporters Thursday that based on the benefits Japan's Softbank says it would get from buying Sprint, it should be paying a higher price.

Last week, Softbank's CEO Masayoshi Son said Dish's \$25.5 billion offer for Sprint is based on "incomplete and illusory" numbers, and argued that Softbank's \$20.1 billion offer for 70 percent of the company is a better value.

Softbank can close the deal up to a year faster than Dish and brings industry expertise and cash to Sprint, he said. In addition, the combined Softbank and Sprint would be a huge purchaser of phones and network equipment,

which should help it secure volume discounts, he said. Ergen said Thursday that if Softbank is really confident

holders are going to be the winners, and who knows where this goes," Ergen said.



The chairman of satellite broadcaster Dish Network Corp., which is trying to buy Sprint Nextel Corp., is daring Sprint's other suitor to raise its bid. (Handout Photo)

in its calculations, "they would look at paying quite a bit more for Sprint than we have offered so far." "Realistically, the curtain is now up on Sprint, both Dish and Softbank see tremendous value there. Share-

However, he said it would be difficult for Softbank to outbid Dish in the end, given that Dish adds 14 million pay-TV subscribers who would generate cash for investments in Sprint's network and to pay off debt,

plus it would provide more space on the airwaves for cellular broadband.

"We bring so much to the party," Ergen said.

Wall Street analysts view Dish's bid as superior but risky, as it will result in a combined company with high debt.

Sprint shares rose 3 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$7.36 in afternoon trading. That's above the bids of either Dish or Softbank, indicating that investors expect a sweetened bid.

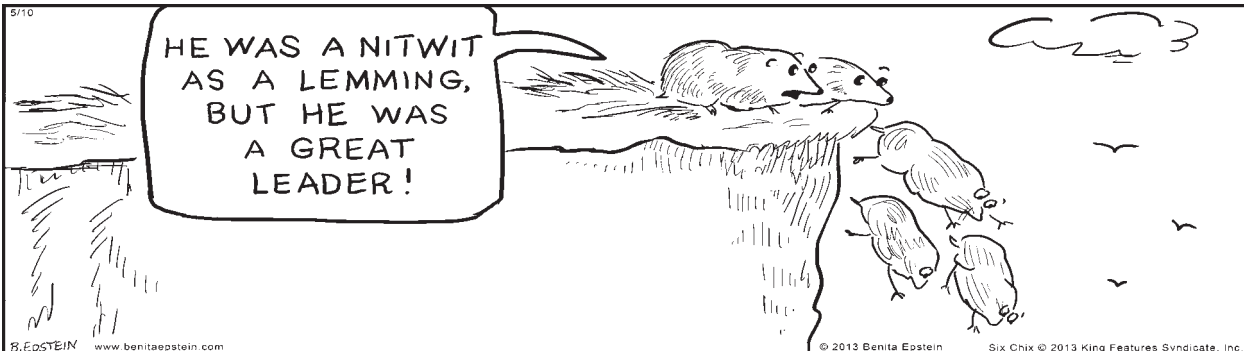
Ergen said Thursday that one of his priorities for a combined Dish-Sprint is to improve its cellular coverage. He doesn't use a Sprint phone now because it doesn't provide a signal in the smaller communities he visits.

"Even if I was given Sprint (service) for free, I wouldn't use it because it doesn't work everywhere I go. Obviously Verizon, and to a lesser degree AT&T, work just about anywhere you go," Ergen said. □

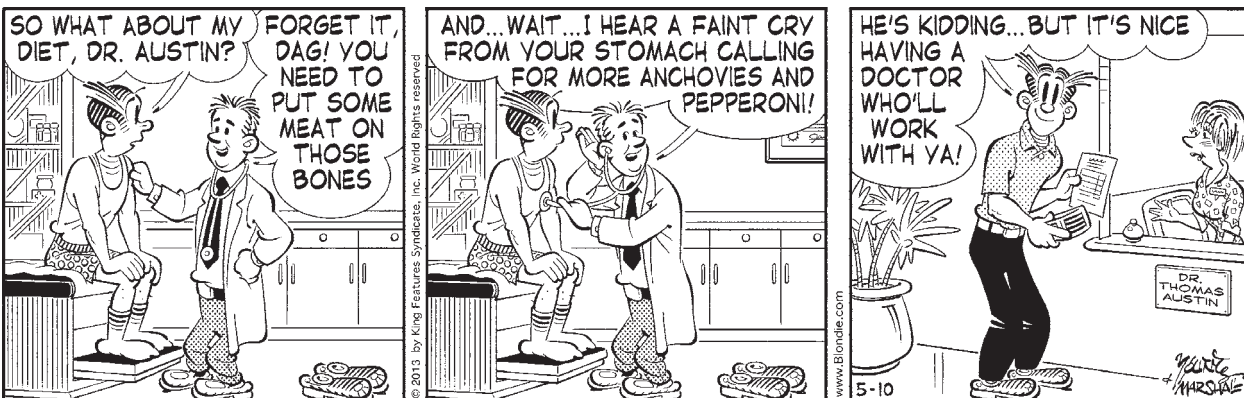
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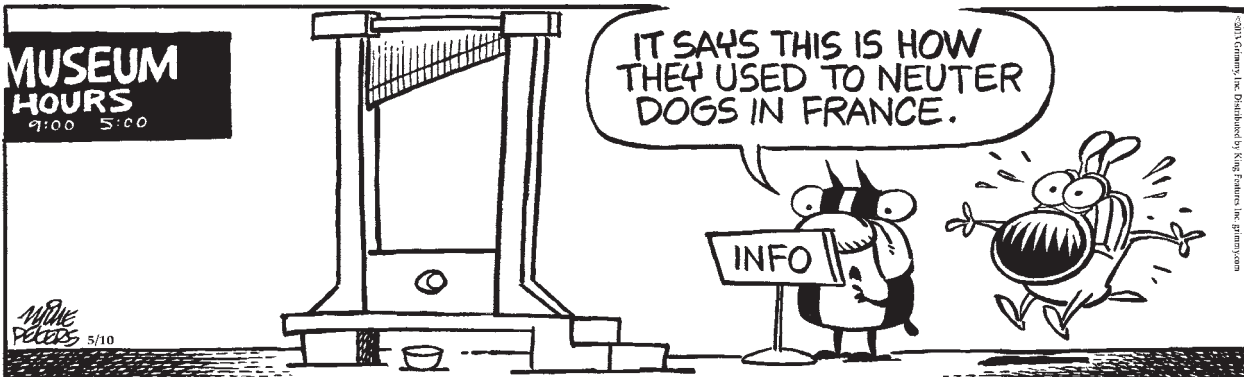
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Blondie



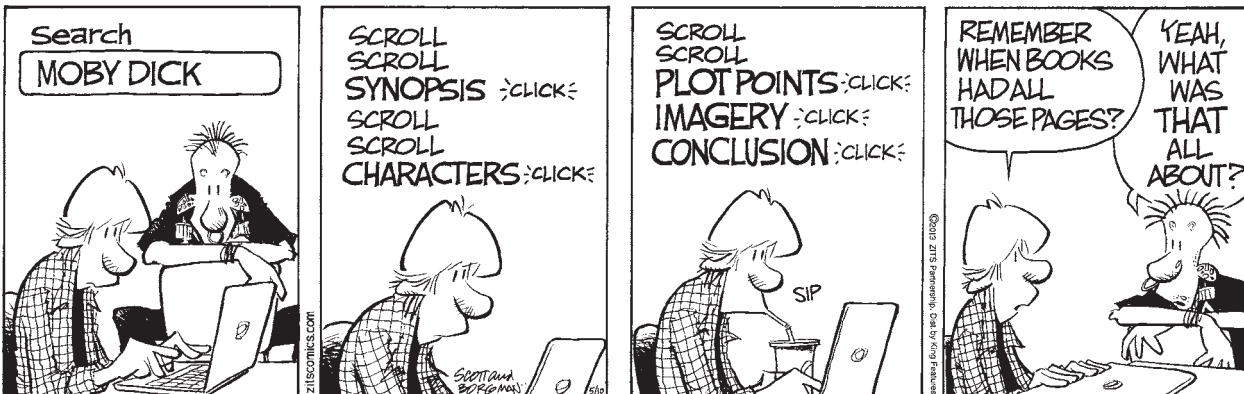
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6				7			3
	8					2	
4				9			8
2				8			
	4			6	7		
				5			9
8				1			2
	5					6	
7			2				1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	7	3	2	5	6	1	4	9
1	4	9	7	8	3	5	6	2
6	5	2	4	9	1	3	8	7
3	6	8	9	7	5	2	1	4
4	9	7	1	3	2	8	5	6
5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9	3
9	8	4	5	2	7	6	3	1
2	3	6	8	1	4	9	7	5
7	1	5	3	6	9	4	2	8

ACROSS

- Embrace as one's own
- Perched on
- 10 away; die
- Isle of; Italian resort
- Use a PC keyboard
- Qualified
- Cornered
- Aware of the duplicity of
- Cut of pork
- Logical
- Phony; false
- off; harshly reprimand
- Butter up
- a fine on; punish monetarily
- On the ball
- Luau neckwear
- Piece of dining room furniture
- Fable teller
- Come to shore
- Jackson and Gosselin
- with; back in an argument
- Iron alloy
- Microsoft's Bill
- Little tyke
- Blanket
- Cruise ships
- Come apart
- Merriment
- Cargo handler, at times
- Web site access code
- Arrive
- African nation
- Giggle's sound
- Sports network
- Press, as clothes
- Of the Orient
- Take a break
- Latest info
- Tale

DOWN

- Performs
- Issue a challenge to

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20					21			22	23				
			24				25						
26	27	28				29							
30				31		32			33	34	35	36	
37			38		39			40		41			
42				43		44			45		46		
			47		48			49	50				
51	52	53						54					
55							56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63				
64					65				66				
67					68				69				

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

5/10/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

MATE	SHOAL	ABUT
ERIN	LINGO	COPY
SEND	ALLEGATION	
HAS	ALLY	MILNE
	ENJOY	TEN
AGLEAM	HINGES	
LATER	CRIED	VET
PLOD	HOPED	LANE
SEW	HARMS	SOLOS
	SNOOZE	YOGURT
	PAY	GENOA
ASTIR	DRAG	TAT
CHANDELIER	RICE	
NOME	LEGAL	HOME
EWES	MISTY	ONES

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5/10/13

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 40 Peddles | 54 Puts on weight |
| 43 Reason to wed | 56 Farm machine |
| 45 Afternoon naps | 57 "The Buckeye State" |
| 48 Lice and mice | 58 Derriere |
| 50 Most modern | 59 Declare untrue |
| 51 Stomach woe | 62 Art Linkletter's "People — Funny" |
| 52 Lasso loop | |
| 53 Skateboarder's inclines | |

What happens in Vegas... for hedge funds

PETER LATTMAN

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LAS VEGAS – The SALT hedge-fund conference, held over four days at the Bellagio resort, is a lot of things – it's an ideas conference, a Wall Street bacchanal, a power-net-working event.

It is also, with its vaunted lineup of speakers on-stage in the hotel's grand ballroom, a place to absorb the musings of senior Wall Street money managers and Washington politicians. Across Wednesday and Thursday, panelists weighed in on everything from the risks of situation in Syria to investment opportunities in the shipping industry. A keynote speaker at the conference was John Paulson, the billionaire manager who has recently absorbed steep losses across a number of his strategies. Paulson urged investors to have a long-term horizon and stick with hedge funds even through rough patches. "Don't focus on weekly or monthly returns," he said. Speakers at the SALT conference, unsurprisingly, did not focus on the mediocre investment performance of hedge funds. (Hedge fund averages have underperformed the broad stock market indexes over the past four years.) The industry's hefty fees were also, for the most part, a topic non grata. But in a panel on the evolution of hedge funds, Jane Buchan, chief executive of the Pacific Alternative Asset Management Co., expressed surprise that hedge-fund fees continued to rise. "I keep waiting for fees to go down, but they're only going up," she said. There was much focus on fixed income-trading strategies, which have

been among the hottest hedge-fund sectors. A panel on the mortgage securities included Joshua Birnbaum, the former Goldman Sachs trader at the center of the bank's hugely profitable and controversial negative bet on mortgages during the financial crisis. Birnbaum, now the chief investment officer of the hedge fund Tilden Park Capital Management, said the market had gone through a fundamental change in how managers analyze mortgage-backed securities. In the period after the financial crisis, Birnbaum said, investors were making money by blindly plowing money into deeply distressed mortgage securities. "People were trading just on price

and weren't even running prepayment or default vectors," he said. "Today the macro trade is not as good as it was, but on a micro level" – meaning selecting individual bonds – "there is a lot more to gain by things that you can analyze," Birnbaum said. On Thursday, a panel of stock pickers discussed their best ideas. Leon Cooperman, the chairman of Omega Advisors, plugged Monitise, a British electronic payments company. John Burbank, the chief investment officer of Passport Capital, said he liked Chinese Internet companies. Oscar Shafer, the chairman of Rivulet Capital, recommended Hertz, citing the consolidation in the rental-car company. □

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UK budget airline to test ash cloud detector

SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A U.K. budget airline will create an artificial volcanic ash cloud over Europe this summer to test ash detection technology.

The experiment aims to avoid the kind of chaos that paralyzed air traffic during eruptions three years ago.

Thursday's announcement was made by easyJet, which acquired a ton of ash collected in Iceland by scientists in the months after the 2010 eruptions for its test. Air travel was virtually suspended for days in Europe and millions of passengers were left stranded because of fears the ash cloud could disrupt plane engines and was too dangerous to fly through.

EasyJet PLC said it is working with Airbus and Nicarnica Aviation, a Norwegian research company, on developing infrared technology fitted to planes that will feed images of an ash cloud to pilots and control operators on the ground.



This is a Saturday, April 17, 2010 file photo of the volcano in southern Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull glacier sends ash into the air.

The U.K.-based carrier said the system, which works like a weather radar for ash, will enable pilots to see an ash cloud up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) ahead of the aircraft. The pilot can then make small adjustments to the plane's flight path to avoid it.

"There is currently no radar

technology that can detect ash, and even in daylight the pilot can't see it," said Ian Davies, easyJet's engineering director. "The onboard technology will allow us to give a 3D picture of where the ash cloud is and where it is moving."

To test the technology, an Airbus test plane will

disperse a ton of the collected volcanic ash, dried to the consistency of fine talc, into the atmosphere to create an artificial ash cloud in August. A second Airbus fitted with the detection technology will attempt to detect and avoid the cloud at more than 30,000 feet (9,144 meters).

Davies said the experiment will take place over a quiet area yet to be determined, likely in France, and the amount of ash to be dispersed will be "like a teaspoon into the ocean in terms of total amount." Relevant authorities and other airlines will be notified in advance.

If the technology works, it will complement satellite images to give a more accurate image of volcanic ash clouds.

That could open up airspace that would otherwise be closed and minimize disruption for travelers, easyJet said.

"We know the (volcanic) activity in Iceland is going to be higher in the next 30, 40 years, and we know there are two volcanoes overdue for eruption," Davies said. "We have got to be more prepared."

In 2010, European aviation authorities reacted to the April 14 eruption at Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano by closing vast swaths of the continent's airspace for almost a week. □

'Ring of fire' eclipse crosses Australia, Pacific

KRISTEN GELINEAU

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Skygazers across the Australian Outback were among the lucky few to witness a solar eclipse on Friday as the moon glided between the Earth and the sun, blocking everything but a dazzling ring of light.

The celestial spectacle, known as a "ring of fire" eclipse, is the second solar eclipse visible from northern Australia in six months. In November, a total solar eclipse plunged the country's northeast into darkness, delighting astronomers and tourists who

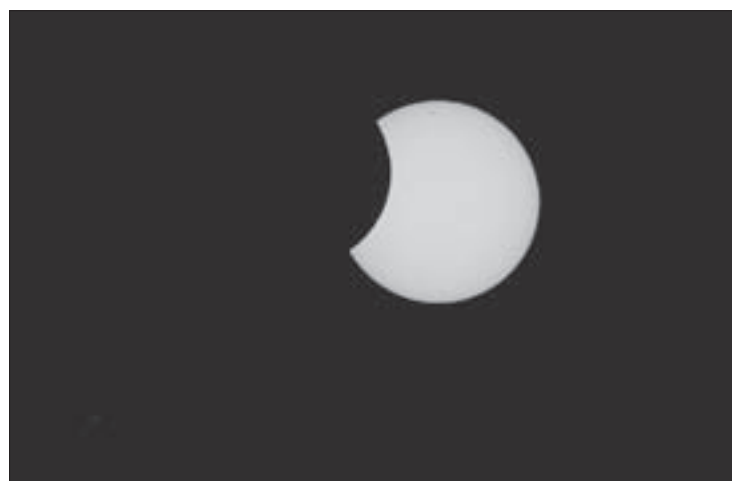
flocked to the region from across the globe to witness it.

Friday's eclipse, also called an annular solar eclipse, is not considered as scientifically important or dramatic as November's, because the moon is too far from Earth — and therefore appears too small — to completely black out the sun. Unlike a total solar eclipse, which essentially turns day into night, an annular eclipse just dims the sunlight.

"A total eclipse is overall far more spectacular, far more emotional," said Andrew Jacob, an astrono-

mer at Sydney Observatory. Still, he said, Friday's eclipse "will give you a

at dawn over Western Australia, before moving east through the North-



The moon begins to cross in front of the sun during a partial solar eclipse in Sydney, Friday, May 10, 2013.

Associated Press

nice ring of sunlight in the sky — it will be quite different."

At remote outposts across Australia, scientists and spectators gathered to watch as the eclipse began casting its approximately 200-kilometer-wide (120-mile-wide) shadow

ern Territory and the top of Queensland state. The shadow will then drift across Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the tiny island nation of Kiribati and eventually end in a largely uninhabited area of the Pacific Ocean.

The eclipse lasted between

three and six minutes, depending on its location, and blacked out around 95 percent of the sun at its peak. A partial eclipse was visible to people in other parts of Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

U.S. astronomer Jay Pasachoff, who traveled to Australia to view his 57th solar eclipse, planned to watch from a remote vantage point in the desert about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the Outback town of Tennant Creek.

The spot was expected to provide the ultimate view in Australia, he said, with the ring of fire visible for four minutes and 20 seconds.

"The most interesting thing about all these eclipses is really to tell students that we can predict these things to a second," said Pasachoff, an astronomy professor at Williams College in Massachusetts. □

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This May 1, 2013 photo shows Eli Roth at the LA Premiere of "Aftershock" at the Chinese 6 Theatres in Los Angeles. Roth stars, co-wrote and produced the film opening nationwide on Friday, May 10.
Associated Press

Roth says

'Aftershock' new business model for film

LAURI NEFF
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Eli Roth says one of the best things about his new movie "Aftershock" is that it creates a "real, new business model" that could help independent films hold their own against studio blockbusters.

Roth co-wrote, produced and stars in the horror film opening Friday about a group of people who are in a Chilean nightclub when a massive earthquake strikes, resulting in deadly chaos. It is inspired by real events that occurred after the South American country was hit by a magnitude 8.8 quake in 2010.

Roth has directed, produced and appeared in his share of big-budget films including "The Man with the Iron Fists," "Inglourious Basterds" and his "Hostel" series, but in an interview Wednesday, he said he and co-writer/director Nicolas Lopez set out to make "Aftershock" in a different manner. Roth said they decided, "instead of doing a \$40 million movie, let's do this as a \$2 million movie and see what we can do."

They opted not to film in Hollywood but rather in Chile, where not many big movies are shot. "So they're

not thinking about how to do stuff. They're figuring it out. They don't know that you need 10 people to do this job, so two people do it," Roth said.

"Aftershock" was filmed with inexpensive SLR cameras fitted with very good lenses. Roth said the result was footage that looks just like what you see in a "Spider-Man" movie and that audiences couldn't tell the difference. "You just need to know how to light, you need to know how to shoot, but the future is here and you don't need all the bells and whistles that Hollywood thinks they need," he said.

Roth noted that even the biggest blockbusters are in theaters for only weeks before they're released on video. "So instead of spending \$40 million in advertising, hoping it makes 80 million," "Aftershock" is being released in theaters, iTunes and Video On Demand on the same day with minimal advertising, he said.

He predicted that if this "everywhere release" works with "Aftershock," others will follow, allowing them to get their films out to a targeted audience without the backing or the budget of a big studio and still turning a profit. □

Later, Dawg: Randy Jackson leaving 'American Idol'

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Randy Jackson out.

The original "American Idol" judge says he won't be returning to the Fox talent competition.

"To put all of the speculation to the rest, after 12 years of judging on 'American Idol,' I have decided to leave after this season," Jackson said in a statement Thursday. "I am very proud of how we forever changed television and the music industry."

The 56-year-old record producer and bassist called the experience a "life-changing opportunity." He said he's leaving "Idol" to focus on his record label and other business opportunities. Jackson has served as a judge on all 12 seasons of "Idol." He first appeared on the panel alongside Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul when the competition debuted in 2002, becoming famous for his easygoing "yo, dawg"



In this Jan. 8, 2013 file photo, Randy Jackson arrives at the Winter TCA Fox All-Star Party at the Langham Huntington Hotel, in Pasadena, Calif.
Associated Press

rapport with contestants. Jackson currently judges the show with pop royalty Mariah Carey, R&B diva Nicki Minaj and country star Keith Urban. His exit comes amid reports the entire panel will be re-

placed next season. A spokeswoman for Fox and spokesman for "Idol" producer FremantleMedia declined to comment.

The current 12th season is set to conclude next week. □

YouTube launches pay channels with campy flicks

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Children's shows like "Sesame Street," inspirational monologues by celebrities and campy movies — these are among the offerings on 30 channels that will soon require a paid monthly subscription on YouTube.

Although the world's largest video site has rented and sold movies and TV shows from major studios since late 2008, most people watch videos on YouTube for free. It's the first time YouTube is introducing all-you-can-watch channels that require a monthly fee. The least expensive of the channels at will cost 99 cents a month, but the average price is around \$2.99. In the field of paid video content online, YouTube is playing catch-up to services like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon, all of which have millions of paying customers.

But with a billion monthly visitors from around the globe, the Google-owned video service hopes to quickly add subscribers and add to the money it already makes from online advertising. "This is just the beginning," said Malik Ducard, YouTube's director of content partnerships. The site plans to roll out a way for a broad number of partners to launch pay channels on their own soon. Roger Corman, a producer and director whose influential cult classics like "Deathrace 2000" and "Piranha" earned him an honorary Oscar in 2009, said he's kept his 400-film library off video streaming sites until now. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said he turned down an offer from Hulu for about \$5,000 to \$6,000 per film several years ago but sees promise in the YouTube offering. His channel, "Corman's Drive-in," will cost subscribers \$3.99 per

month for a rotating selection of 30 movies, refreshed with new interviews and clips from films that are in production. It is set to launch in June.

"I believed for many years that the future of motion picture distribution, particularly for the independents, is on the Internet," said the 87-year-old director. "I think the time is now." YouTube will keep slightly less than half of the revenue generated by the subscriptions. Corman's wife and producing partner Julie Corman said they were taken aback at YouTube's potential after a clip of their 2010 movie "Sharktopus" went viral with 11 million views.

If even 1 percent of those viewers signed up for a subscription, it would amount to a healthy revenue stream, she said. □

"The numbers are astonishing. We're waiting for the fireworks display," she said. □



In this file photo taken Thursday, April 8, 2010, Tim Lambesis of As I Lay Dying performs at the second annual Revolver Golden Gods Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Singer charged with soliciting wife's murder

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The lead singer of heavy metal band As I Lay Dying, who is charged with plotting to kill his estranged wife, had recently become obsessed with bodybuilding and had started acting dangerously distracted around his children, his wife said in divorce papers.

Tim Lambesis was charged late Wednesday with one felony count of solicitation of murder, San Diego County district attorney spokeswoman Tanya Sierra said. He was scheduled to be arraigned Thursday afternoon.

Lambesis' estranged wife, Meggan Lambesis, said in the court papers obtained by The Associated Press that her husband had fallen asleep while caring for the couple's three children near a pool and had begun spending endless hours at a gym.

He had also begun to spend thousands of dollars on tattoos, she said in the papers filed last fall.

Meggan Lambesis didn't express any concern in the documents for her own safety, however.

Police say her husband tried to hire a hitman to kill her, but the person he approached was actually an undercover detective taking part in a sting operation set up following a tip to law enforcement last week.

The 32-year-old frontman of the Grammy-nominated band was taken into custody Tuesday at a store in Oceanside.

The musician's wife also said in court papers that Lambesis toured six months a year and had taken two last-minute trips in a month to see his then-girlfriend in Florida.

She said he owned two "high-end" Harley Davidson motorcycles, dined out for almost every meal and lived in a spacious suite at his parents' \$2 million home.

She asked the court to order an expert to examine their music-related businesses and other assets. She submitted a tax return showing the couple grossed \$233,000 in 2010 but did not specify an amount she was seeking for spousal support.

The couple adopted the children — ages 4, 8 and 10 — from Ethiopia, and Tim Lambesis continued to see them for about 10 hours a week when he was not on tour, even though the couple was no longer living together, according to court documents.

Meggan Lambesis said in the court papers that he would ignore the children while texting or talking on the phone.

The stay-at-home mom said the children need a stable parent to help them adjust to their new life. □

Fitzgerald's Hollywood ending followed sad death



This undated photo shows author Francis Scott Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald is back on the big-screen with Leonardo DiCaprio and director Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby," a story adapted for film and television more than half a dozen times since the silent-movie era, when it was published to scant sales in 1925.

Associated Press

DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Has-beens in Hollywood usually stay that way. Yet one writer who died there nearly forgotten 73 years ago had one of the most remarkable posthumous revivals in literary history.

F. Scott Fitzgerald is back on the big-screen with Leonardo DiCaprio and director Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby," a story adapted for film and television more than half a dozen times since the silent-movie era, when it was published to scant sales in 1925.

Within a couple of decades after Fitzgerald's death in 1940, "Gatsby" was acknowledged as a masterpiece and the author was recognized as one of America's greatest for a body of work that includes "Tender Is the Night," "This Side of Paradise" and "The Love of the Last Tycoon," the unfinished Hollywood saga he'd been writing when he died.

A huge irony considering no one was reading Fitzgerald when he was

scrambling for screenplay work toward the end of his life. There's even a small irony in the place he died of a heart attack at 44. It was the home of his companion, gossip columnist Sheila Graham, in the heart of an industry town where his supreme art never meshed with the studios' need for product. It's also half a block from where the Directors Guild of America headquarters now stands. "God is a great stage manager. God is the greatest director of all time for images of pathos," Luhrmann said. "Fitzgerald, just think for all that he gave to us, he had a very rough trot. It is very sad. If he could only know how many people went on to read that novel and how universal it has become."

Luhrmann's "Gatsby" stars DiCaprio in the title role as the fabulously rich mystery man who's really a hopeless, doomed romantic, befriending impressionable neighbor Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire) to help revive a lost love with Nick's cousin Daisy (Carey Mulli-

gan). Fitzgerald himself had several unsuccessful stints as a screenwriter in Hollywood, the last beginning in the late 1930s, when he was under contract with MGM, contributing fitfully to scripts to pay off debts and cover medical bills for his wife, Zelda, who was in a mental hospital. His reputation for boozing and carousing were Fitzgerald's undoing; though he worked on a number of films, including "Gone with the Wind," his only screenwriting credit came for the 1938 war romance "Three Comrades." "I don't think that anyone would argue that Fitzgerald wasn't the architect of his own failure in Hollywood," said Robert S. Birchard, an editor at the American Film Institute who wrote a cover story on "Gatsby" screen adaptations for the May issue of the group's American Film journal.

A disastrous collaboration with admirer Budd Schulberg on the screenplay for a film called "Winter Carnival" was Fitzgerald's final downfall in Hollywood, Birchard said. Schulberg used the experience as the basis for his novel "The Disenchanted," chronicling a young writer's disillusionment as his literary idol, now a Hollywood hack, sinks into an alcoholic breakdown. "As Schulberg wasn't able to keep him on the wagon, and in fact got dragged into the drunken spree, that maybe suggested to other producers that Fitzgerald not only was unreliable but a bad influence on those he worked with," Birchard said. "Even with the best of intentions, it was not a wise thing to hire him." Like many prose authors, Fitzgerald could not adapt to studio formulas and collaborative projects. His dialogue often was stylized speech that read well on the page but might ring false on screen, while he wrote long descriptive passages that were useless in a screenplay. □

The Chutzpah Caucus Continues



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

At this point the economic case for austerity – for slashing government spending even in the face of a weak economy – has collapsed. Claims that spending cuts would actually boost employment by promoting confidence have fallen apart. Claims that there is some kind of red line of debt that countries dare not cross have turned out to rest on fuzzy and to some extent just plain erroneous math. Predictions of fiscal crisis keep not coming true; predictions of disaster from harsh austerity policies have proved all too accurate.

Yet calls for a reversal of the destructive turn toward austerity are still having a hard time getting through. Partly that reflects vested interests, for austerity policies serve the interests of wealthy creditors; partly it reflects the unwillingness of influential people to admit being wrong. But there is, I believe, a further obstacle to change: widespread, deep-seated cynicism about the ability of democratic governments, once engaged in stimulus, to change course in the future.

So now seems like a good time to point out that this cynicism, which sounds realistic and worldly-wise, is actually sheer fantasy. Ending stimulus has never been a problem – in fact, the historical record shows that it almost always ends too soon. And in America, at least, we have a pretty good record for behaving in a fiscally responsible fashion, with one exception – namely, the fiscal irresponsibility that prevails when, and only when, hard-line conservatives are in power.

Let's start with the common claim that stimulus programs never go away. In the United States, government spending programs designed to boost the economy are in fact rare – FDR's New Deal and President Barack Obama's much smaller Recovery Act are the only big examples. And neither program became permanent – in fact, both were scaled back much too soon. FDR cut back sharply in 1937, plunging America back into recession; the Recovery Act had its peak effect in 2010, and has since faded away, a fade that has been a major reason for our slow recovery.

What about programs designed to aid those hurt by a depressed economy? Don't they become permanent fixtures? Again, no.

Unemployment benefits have fluctuated up and down with the business cycle, and as a percentage of GDP they are barely half what they were at their recent peak. Food stamp usage is still rising, thanks to a still-terrible labor market, but historical experience suggests that it too will fall sharply if and when the economy really recovers.

Incidentally, foreign experience follows the same pattern. You often hear Japan described as a country that has pursued never-ending fiscal stimulus. In reality, it has engaged in stop-go policies, increasing spending when the economy is weak, then pulling back at the first sign of recovery (and thereby pushing itself back into recession). So the whole notion of perma-stimulus is fantasy posing as hardheaded realism. Still, even if you don't believe that stimulus is forever, Keynesian economics says not just that you should run deficits in bad times, but that you should pay down debt in good times. And it's silly to imagine that this will happen, right? Wrong. The key measure you want to look at is the ratio of debt to GDP, which measures the government's fiscal position better than a simple dollar number. And if you look at U.S. history since World War II, you find that of the 10 presidents who preceded Barack Obama, seven left office with a debt ratio lower than when they came in. Who were the three exceptions? Ronald Reagan and the two George Bushes. So debt increases that didn't arise either from war or from extraordinary financial crisis are entirely associated with hard-line conservative governments.

And there's a reason for that association: U.S. conservatives have long followed a strategy of "starving the beast," slashing taxes so as to deprive the government of the revenue it needs to pay for popular programs. The funny thing is that right now these same hard-line conservatives declare that we must not run deficits in times of economic crisis. Why? Because, they say, politicians won't do the right thing and pay down the debt in good times. And who are these irresponsible politicians they're talking about? Why, themselves. To me, it sounds like a fiscal version of the classic definition of chutzpah – namely, killing your parents, then demanding sympathy because you're an orphan. Here we have conservatives telling us that we must tighten our belts despite mass unemployment, because otherwise future conservatives will keep running deficits once times improve.

Put this way, of course, it sounds silly. But it isn't; it's tragic. The disastrous turn toward austerity has destroyed millions of jobs and ruined many lives. And it's time for a U-turn. □



This Ain't Yogurt



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

An Arab friend remarked to me that watching the United States debate how much to get involved in Syria reminded him of an Arab proverb: "If you burn your tongue once eating soup, for the rest of your life you'll blow on your yogurt."

After burning our tongues in Iraq and Afghanistan, and watching with increasing distress the aftermath of the revolutions in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt, President Barack Obama is right to be cautious about getting burned in Damascus. We've now seen enough of these Arab transitions from autocracy to draw some crucial lessons about what it takes to sustain positive change in these countries. We ignore the lessons at our peril – especially the lesson of Iraq, which everyone just wants to forget but is hugely relevant.

Syria is Iraq's twin: an artificial state that was also born after World War I inside lines drawn by imperial powers. Like Iraq, Syria's constituent communities – Sunnis, Alawite/Shiites, Kurds, Druze, Christians – never volunteered to live together under agreed rules. So, like Iraq, Syria has been ruled for much of its modern history by either a colonial power or an iron-fisted autocrat. In Iraq,

the hope was that once the iron-fisted dictator was removed by us it would steadily transition to a multisectarian, multiparty democracy. Ditto for Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen.

But we now see the huge difference between Eastern Europe in 1989 and the Arab world in 2013. In most of Eastern Europe, the heavy lid of communist authoritarian rule was suppressing broad and deeply rooted aspirations for democracy. So when that lid was removed, most of these countries relatively quickly moved to freely elected governments – helped and inspired by the European Union.

In the Arab world, in contrast, the heavy lid of authoritarianism was suppressing sectarian, tribal, Islamist and democratic aspirations. So, when the lids were removed, all four surfaced at once. But the Islamist trend has been the most energetic – helped and inspired not by the EU but by Islamist mosques and charities in the Persian Gulf – and the democratic one has proved to be the least organized, least funded and most frail. In short, most of Eastern Europe turned out to be like Poland after communism ended and most of the Arab countries turned out to be like Yugoslavia after communism ended.

As I said, our hope and the hope of the courageous Arab democrats who started all these revolutions, was that these Arab countries would make the transition from Saddam to Jefferson without getting stuck in Khomeini or Hobbes – to go from autocracy to democracy without getting stuck in Islamism or anarchism.

To do that, though, they need either an external midwife to act as a referee between all their

constituent communities (who never developed trust in one another) as they try to replace sectarianism, Islamism and tribalism with a spirit of democratic citizenship, or they need their own Nelson Mandela. That is, a homegrown figure who can lead, inspire and navigate a democratic transition that is inclusive of all communities.

America, we all know, played that external referee role in Iraq – hugely ineptly at first. Eventually, though, the U.S. and moderate Iraqis found a way back from the brink, beat back both Sunni and Shiite violent extremists, wrote a constitution and held multiple free elections, hoping to give birth to that Iraqi Mandela. Alas, they got Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite who, instead of building trust with other communities, is re-sowing sectarian division. Decades of zero-sum politics – "I'm-weak-how-can-I-compromise/I'm-strong-why-should-I-compromise" – are hard to extinguish.

I believe that if you want to end the Syrian civil war and tilt Syria onto a democratic path, you need an international force to occupy the entire country, secure the borders, disarm all the militias and midwife a transition to democracy. It would be staggeringly costly and take a long time, with the outcome still not guaranteed. But without a homegrown Syrian leader who can be a healer, not a divider, for all its communities, my view is that anything short of an external force that rebuilds Syria from the bottom up will fail. Since there are no countries volunteering for that role (and I am certainly not nominating the U.S.), my guess is that the fighting in Syria will continue until the parties get exhausted. □

Silicon Valley group's political effort raises uproar

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"Move fast and break things" has been the motto at Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook, embodying the Silicon Valley ethos of unapologetically finding new ways to solve old problems. His latest foray into politics in Washington, however, might be characterized as "Move fast, play hardball and be prepared for blowback."

Fwd.us, the new nonprofit advocacy group created by Zuckerberg and several technology executives and investors to push for an overhaul of immigration law,

has bankrolled television ads endorsing the conservative stands taken by three lawmakers – two Republicans and a Democrat – prompting an outcry from liberal groups and a call to withhold advertisements from Facebook.

The uproar, some say, will be a lesson for Silicon Valley companies as they try to influence emotional political issues like immigration. But the group's supporters brashly say they were ready for the reaction.

"Our advertising decisions are being made by a very smart team of political operatives who know that passing major reform will require some different and innovative tactics," Jim Breyer, a venture capitalist with Accel Partners and a contributor to the cause, said in an emailed statement. "I'm proud to support Fwd.us as they work to pass comprehensive immigration reform."

The group has faced the most vocal criticism for television advertisements sponsored by its two subsidiaries, which are known as Americans for Conservative Action and Council for American Job Growth. One of those spots takes swipes at President Barack Obama's health policies. Another lauds the Keystone XL pipeline, fiercely opposed by many environmental groups.

Those TV spots, which ran

in several states for a week, prompted strong reaction from a coalition of liberal organizations that includes the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters and MoveOn.org. They announced earlier this week that they would suspend

except to name contributors on its website. It would say only that it spent in the "seven figures" on the television spots.

The ads are particularly surprising considering some of the other backers.

John Doerr, a venture

immigration reform."

For his part, Zuckerberg has covered his political bases. He recently held a fundraiser for Chris Christie, the Republican governor of New Jersey, at his home in Palo Alto, Calif., and Facebook has hired several for-

called the group's "questionable lobbying practices" and said he was disappointed that the group had not been transparent about its intentions. "More discouragingly, the leaders of the technology industry (and of Fwd.us) have built their careers on bringing meaningful change to the world," he wrote in a BuzzFeed opinion piece. "They should be doing the same in Washington."

Vinod Khosla, a venture capitalist who finances some of the same clean energy companies as Doerr's firm and who was once a major partner at Doerr's investment firm, said on Twitter over the weekend: "Will Fwd.us prostitute climate destruction & other values to get a few engineers hired & get immigration reform?"

One advocacy group called CredoAction, based in San Francisco, tried to use Facebook ads to draw attention to the Keystone XL pipeline TV spot sponsored by Fwd.us. The ads were prohibited by Facebook officials, because the company's terms of service prohibit using Zuckerberg's image in another organization's ad. A coalition of organizations has also created a Facebook group to agitate against Fwd.us.

Still, others say the ads signal a calculated pragmatism. Fwd.us is led by experienced political operatives, including Joe Lockhart, a former Clinton administration official, and Rob Jesmer, a former Republican Senate political adviser.

One executive involved in the effort said the advertisements were vetted with executives backing it – and that the executives realized before they were shown that they might alienate certain liberal audiences. But the group made a decision to back both Democrats and Republicans who support the immigration bill in order to get it passed.

"We did not just fall off the turnip truck," the executive said. □



Mark Zuckerberg, the chief executive of Facebook, in Menlo Park, Calif., April 4, 2013. Fwd.us, the nonprofit advocacy group created by Zuckerberg and others to push for immigration overhaul, has bankrolled TV ads for conservative lawmakers, prompting an outcry from liberal groups and a call to withhold ads from Facebook.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

buying advertisements on Facebook, which they acknowledged was meant to send a message and would have little economic effect on the company. Cathy Duvall, director of strategic partnerships at the Sierra Club, said her group was especially disappointed to see the technology industry adopt a strategy that was more typical of old-fashioned, brass-knuckled Washington lobbying.

"When the ads came out they were politics as usual and divisive and pitting one issue against another," Duvall said. "We were really surprised that Silicon Valley would be moving into the political space by doing the worst of business-as-usual politics."

Fwd.us, like other industry-backed interest groups, has said very little about how much money it has raised and from whom,

capitalist, is known for his investments in clean technology companies, and his wife, Ann, has been a major donor to environmental causes.

Reid Hoffman has described himself as "progressive" in an essay posted recently on LinkedIn, a company that he founded.

Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, in 2010 backed an effort not to roll back California's global warming law. None of them returned calls and emails requesting comment, referring instead to Fwd.us operatives in Washington.

"We recognize that not everyone will always agree with or be pleased by our strategy," said Kate Hansen, a spokeswoman for Fwd.us. "Fwd.us remains totally committed to support a bipartisan policy agenda that will boot the knowledge economy, including comprehensive

mer White House and congressional aides to work in its Washington office.

Zuckerberg has declined requests to be interviewed about Fwd.us.

Jim Manley, a former chief spokesman for Senate majority leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said that the ads may have achieved their goal, but that Zuckerberg should learn from the negative reaction.

"He is finding out it can be very, very problematic to get your company involved in hot-button social issues," said Manley, who now directs the communications practice at the Washington lobbying and public relations firm Quinn Gillespie. "There is going to be blowback. You are going to pay a price for it."

Fwd.us has been openly criticized by others in Silicon Valley. Josh Miller, founder of a startup called Branch, denounced what he